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The Hongkong Telegraph

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THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5, 1940.

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WHITEAWAY'S

ITALIANS IN FLIGHT TOWARDS EL BASSAN: SANGUINARY FIGHTING

Special to the "Telegraph"

SOFIA, DEC. 4 (UP).—THE NEW ITALIAN DEFENCE LINES NORTH OF PROGRADETZ HAVE BEEN GIVEN UP AND THE ITALIAN FORCES ARE WITHDRAWING TOWARDS EL BASSAN, WHICH IS ONLY 24 MILES FROM TIRANA, ACCORDING TO THE GREEK RADIO TO-DAY.

GERMAN TOWNS BOMBED

R.A.F. Night Raids

LONDON, Dec. 4 (Reuter).—Mannheim and Ludwigshafen which were linked across the Rhine by a most important bridge which was used by rail and foot traffic, were attacked by British bombers on Tuesday night, despite unfavourable weather conditions.

In both towns fires and explosions were observed. The R.A.F. also attacked a blast furnace plant at Essen, while other formations bombed Dunkirk, an invasion port.

Daytime attacks were made on aerodromes in German occupied northern France yesterday.

One British plane is missing. **Slight Enemy Activity** **LONDON, Dec. 4 (Reuter).—**Enemy activity over Britain to-day was very slight. Shortly after mid-day, according to an Air Ministry communique, bombs were dropped on Dover doing some damage but causing few casualties.

One enemy bomber was shot down over the Dover coast by British fighters without loss to themselves.

Last Night's Raids **LONDON, Dec. 4 (UP).—**At 9.20 p.m. night raiders were reported to be concentrating on a Midlands town. Waves of German bombers flew over a town in the East Midlands in a southerly direction, in the face of fierce anti-aircraft fire.

Numerous bombs were dropped at 9 p.m. and caused considerable gun fire in the London area where gun flashes on the outskirts constantly illuminated the sky. The warning in London was sounded at 6.30 p.m.

RICE PAYMENTS FOR LAND TAX

Plan For Next Year

CHUNGKING, Dec. 4 (Reuter).—The collection of the land tax in rice instead of cash is expected to be enforced next year according to the official "Central Daily News." The proposal, it states, was adopted in principle at the July meeting of the Supreme National Defence Council while the details were approved at the meeting of the Executive Yuan on November 13 and the Ministry of Finance then decided that the Land Tax for 1941 should be collected in rice.

The Chinese newspaper estimates the total national land tax, including Japanese occupied areas, at about 200 million dollars. According to the 1935 budget, the land tax totalled 90 million taels or one-fifth of the national revenue.

R.A.F. Aim To Destroy Nazis' War Strength

LONDON, Dec. 4 (Reuter).—If Germany runs short of oil she must stop fighting. It is with this belief uppermost in mind that the R.A.F. have shaped their operations. And the R.A.F. know a trick worth two of bombing oil wells. What this trick is was explained, among other things, by the Minister of Economic Warfare, Mr. Hugh Dalton, at a Press conference to-day.

The British blockade, said Mr. Dalton, is working well and the enemy are growing uncomfortably short of certain commodities. Oil, rubber and copper, looted by Germany from occupied territories, are now exhaust-

On the central front Greek forces launched a new attack which was crowned with success, despite bitter Italian counter-attacks.

In southern Albania, Italian forces have been thrown back, abandoning great quantities of war material and over 100 prisoners being taken.

Northwest of Moskopolje, desperate attacks and counter-attacks developed and ended in success for the Greeks.

Following the capture of Pogradetz the Greek troops have been exercising very great pressure on the Italians.

Manila Receives Warplanes

**Philippines Record
Army Air Strength**

SPECIAL TO THE "TELEGRAPH"

MANILA, Dec. 5 (UP).—The U.S. army transport Etolin, formerly the Matson Line flagship Matsun, arrived to-day carrying 175 officers and men of the 17th pursuit squadron from Selfridge Field, commanded by Major K. J. Gregg, and 175 coast artillery and infantry officers and men, headed by Colonel George F. Moore, who will be assigned to Fort Mills, Corregidor coast artillery.

The Etolin carried an undisclosed number of Pursuit planes, which, with the recently arrived 20th squadron from Hamilton Field, brings the United States army's air strength to the highest in history of the Philippines.

It is noteworthy that the Etolin did not carry any army families although so far the army had not duplicated the navy's action in evacuating dependents from the Philippines.

U.S. EVACUATES

SPECIAL TO THE "TELEGRAPH"

HONOLULU, Dec. 4 (UP).—The U.S. Monterey, carrying about 772 passengers, mostly evacuees from the Orient, arrived here via Australia at 12.30 p.m. to-day.

About 25 passengers are disembarking here and the remainder will sail for the Pacific coast to-morrow.

Queen Wilhelmina

SPECIAL TO THE "TELEGRAPH"

LISBON, Dec. 4 (UP).—There are unconfirmed reports here that Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands is arriving here to-morrow en route to New York by Pan American Clipper.

Tirana Bombed

BUDAPEST, Dec. 4 (UP).—Royal Air Force planes to-day successfully bombed Tirana, according to the Greek Radio. The report said that British and Greek planes brought down 17 Italian planes on the north front despite heavy anti-aircraft fire. They strafed and threw into panic Italian columns retreating to El Bassan.

On the southern front the Italians have been forced to give up important tactical positions to avoid being captured.

In the Konispolis salient and the Argyro-Castron sector, two Bersaglieri regiments have been disrupted by the Greeks, who have captured many guns and much equipment.

Heights Occupied

ATHENS, Dec. 4 (UP).—A Government spokesman to-day announced that the Greeks have occupied the heights at Pazar north of Pogradetz.

It is also reported that 400 Italian prisoners have been taken.

2,500 Prisoners

DELGRADE, Dec. 4 (UP).—It has been reported that the Greeks have taken prisoner 2,500 Italians along the road on the west shore of Lake Ochrid and are now driving towards the main road to El Bassan, which British planes are heavily bombing, and which the Greeks are threatening to cut.

Greek Town Bombed

ATHENS, Dec. 4 (UP).—The Ministry of Public Security to-day issued a communique stating: "Enemy aviation on Wednesday bombed Prevez Zante resulting in few victims among among non-combatants and slight damage to houses."

Italians Stubbornly Fighting

SPECIAL TO THE "TELEGRAPH"

LONDON, Dec. 4 (UP).—The "Exchange Telegraph" Athens correspondent says that a new Greek victory is reported this morning with the occupation of the forest of TURN to Back Page, Column 3

Journalist Killed

Shot By Sniper On The Indo-China-Thai Border

SPECIAL TO THE "TELEGRAPH"

MANILA, Dec. 5 (UP).—It has been revealed that Hubert Hermann, a 32-year-old Dutch correspondent of the Netherlands East Indies paper "Soerabajasch Handelsblad", was killed while he was sitting in a guard house at Poipet on the Indo-China-Thai border.

It is believed that a Thai sniper from the French side fired a single bullet which wounded Hermann, who died en route to hospital at Battambang.

Hermann was making an effort to reach Bangkok after nearly a month in Indo-China, after which he planned to go to Chungking.

He recently flew by Clipper to the Far East from New York after escaping from Finland in a small freighter.

Hermann, once worked for "Reuters" in Holland and also spent over a year covering the Spanish civil war for Dutch papers.

He leaves a wife in Holland.

PORTER!
Women porters have now begun duty on the London Underground. More will be employed as the men are called up for service. Their work will be to help passengers, especially women and children, and to carry out the normal duties performed by men porters in ordinary times. Picture shows Miss Alice Seward, a woman porter at St. Paul's station, giving the all-clear-for-departure signal to the guard of a train.



Attempt To Get Belligerents To Negotiate Peace, Possible

Special to the "Telegraph"

VICHY, Dec. 4 (UP).—It is persistently reported among diplomatic circles in Vichy that the Portuguese Premier, Dr. Antonio de Oliveira Salazar, is contacting belligerent Powers to determine whether concerted action by His Holiness the Pope, President Roosevelt, Portugal and other non-belligerents towards a negotiated peace, might be accepted by Britain and Germany.

Control Of Retail Rice Prices

Govt. Announcement

An official communique issued by the Colonial Secretariat this morning states that it is hoped that the measures for the limitation of retail prices of rice are purely temporary, in view of the attempted raising of the whole-sale prices to unwarrantable level by suppliers abroad.

With a view to conservation of adequate stocks here the export of rice from the Colony is being prohibited meanwhile.

Prices Announced
In a "Government Gazette Extraordinary" published this morning, the following fixed retail prices of rice fixed by the Food Controller, are announced:

Grade No. 1 15 cents per catty; Grade No. 2 15 cents per catty; Grade No. 3 14 cents per catty; Grade No. 4 13 cents per catty; Grade No. 5 12 cents per catty; Grade No. 6 11 cents per catty; Grade No. 7 10 cents per catty; Grade No. 8 9 cents per catty; Grade No. 9 8 cents per catty; Grade No. 10 7 cents per catty.

Plane Hits House

SPECIAL TO THE "TELEGRAPH"

CHICAGO, Dec. 4 (UP).—Eight people were killed and eight were injured when a United Air Lines passenger plane crashed and burst into flames when approaching the Municipal Airport.

The plane struck a two-story house ripping off both its motors.

BRITISH EVACUEES FOR EIRE

SPECIAL TO THE "TELEGRAPH"

DUBLIN, Dec. 4 (UP).—The Eire Minister for the Co-ordination of Defence to-day announced in the Senate, that Britain and Eire have agreed to a large scale evacuation of British women and children to Eire.

An official announcement will be made shortly. It has been estimated that some 25,000 will be evacuated by Christmas.

Important New Moves To Secure U.S. Financial Aid For Britain

Special to the "Telegraph"

WASHINGTON, Dec. 4 (UP).—Mr. Henry Morgenthau, Secretary of the Treasury, to-day announced that Sir Frederick Phillips, Under-Secretary of the British Treasury, will arrive in the United States to report to him regarding British financial conditions. Mr. Morgenthau said the report would be a continuation of the discussions held in Washington last July, when the pair discussed Anglo-American currency relations.

SPRING ATTACK

Chinese Rushing Supplies

SHANGHAI, Dec. 5 (Reuter).—The Chinese press reports that the Chinese High command is feverishly preparing for a large scale counter offensive next spring.

More than 500 trucks have recently arrived from America and have now started rushing military supplies to the northern and southern fronts.

Every effort is being made to provide the Chinese forces in all areas with adequate quantities of war material.

U.S. Denial

WASHINGTON, Dec. 4 (UP).—The report in the New York "Herald-Tribune" stating that the Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, Mr. Marriner Eccles, had proposed a loan of \$2,500,000,000 to Britain, with Britain's gold production as security, has been officially denied by Mr. Eccles through an official spokesman.

Aid For Britain

WASHINGTON, Dec. 4 (UP).—The United States is considering the possibility of extending some form of financial aid to Britain because the latter is a "good risk," Mr. Jesse Jones, Secretary for Commerce indicated to-day.

He declined to say how or when such aid might be rendered but reiterated his opposition to the repeal of the Johnson Act at this time. He said it is his policy to lend Government funds to good risks "where they need it for proper purposes—and the British say they need money."

It will be recalled that Mr. Jones is one of four Cabinet Ministers who participated in the significant conference on Tuesday in the Secretary to the Treasury's office.

Important New Moves

WASHINGTON, Dec. 4 (Reuter).—Important new American moves to help Britain appeared imminent to-day as the Secretaries of at least three Government departments gave indication of further aid being under immediate consideration.

Mr. Jesse Jones, Secretary of Commerce and Federal Loan Administrator, said that Britain was a "good risk."

Mr. Henry Morgenthau, Secretary of the Treasury, revealed that Sir Frederick Phillips, Under-Secretary of the British Treasury, was to "TURN to Back Page, Column 5"

LATEST

Greeks Advance Too Fast

LONDON, Dec. 5 (Reuter).—According to a report from "Reuters" special correspondent on the Yugo-Slavia frontier, Greek troops on the northern Albanian front, have advanced so far from their bases that they are experiencing some difficulty in obtaining supplies.

Yugo-Slavia frontier reports state that all was quiet on the border front yesterday, although the terrain is difficult and the roads almost impassable as a result of the heavy snowfalls.

Carol's Life May Be In Danger

LONDON, Dec. 5 (Reuter).—The suggestion that ex-King Carol's life may be in jeopardy is contained in reports reaching the Spanish frontier. It is declared that three members of the Iron Guard recently left Rumania for Spain.

Indo-China—Thailand Situation Easier

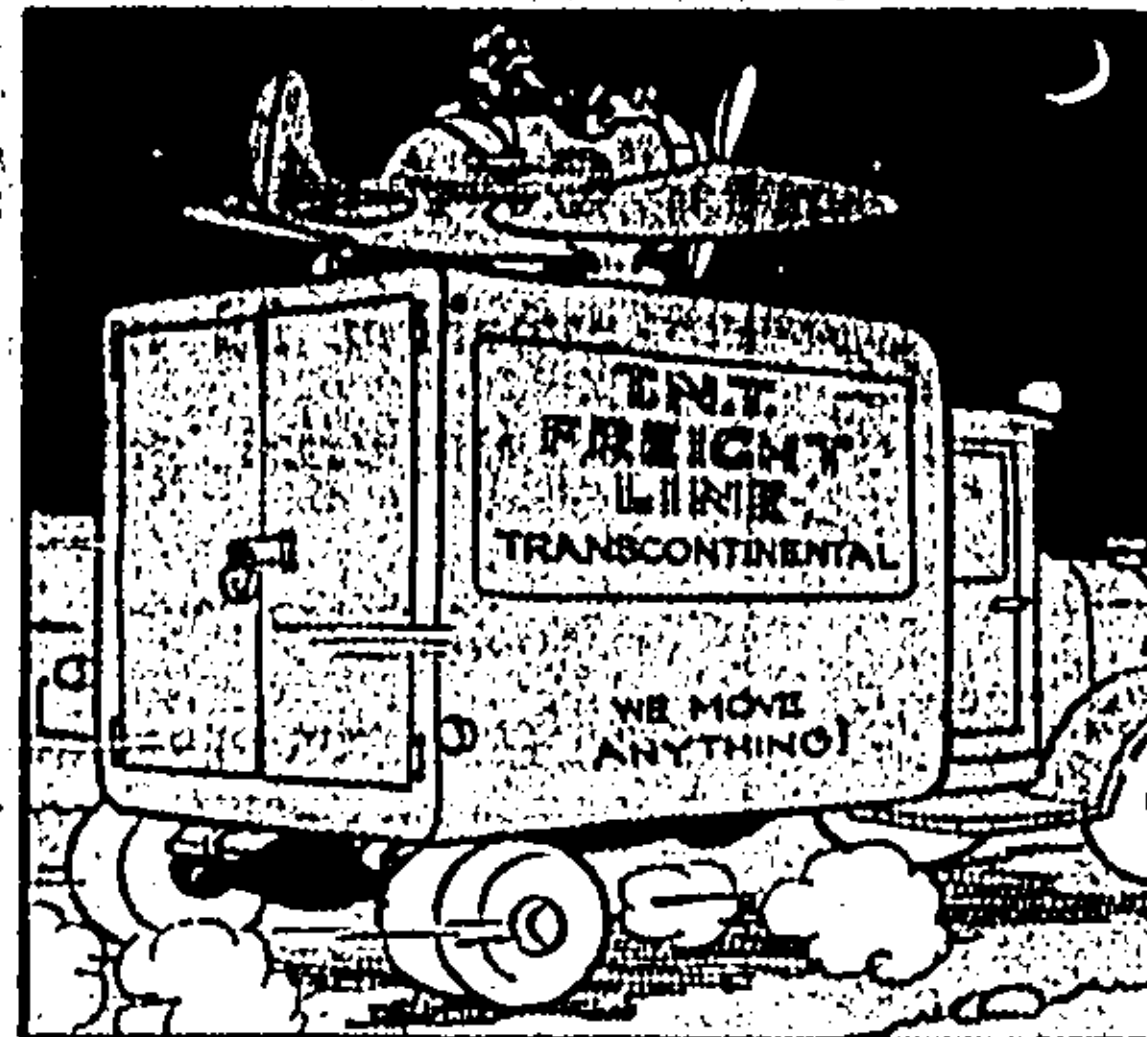
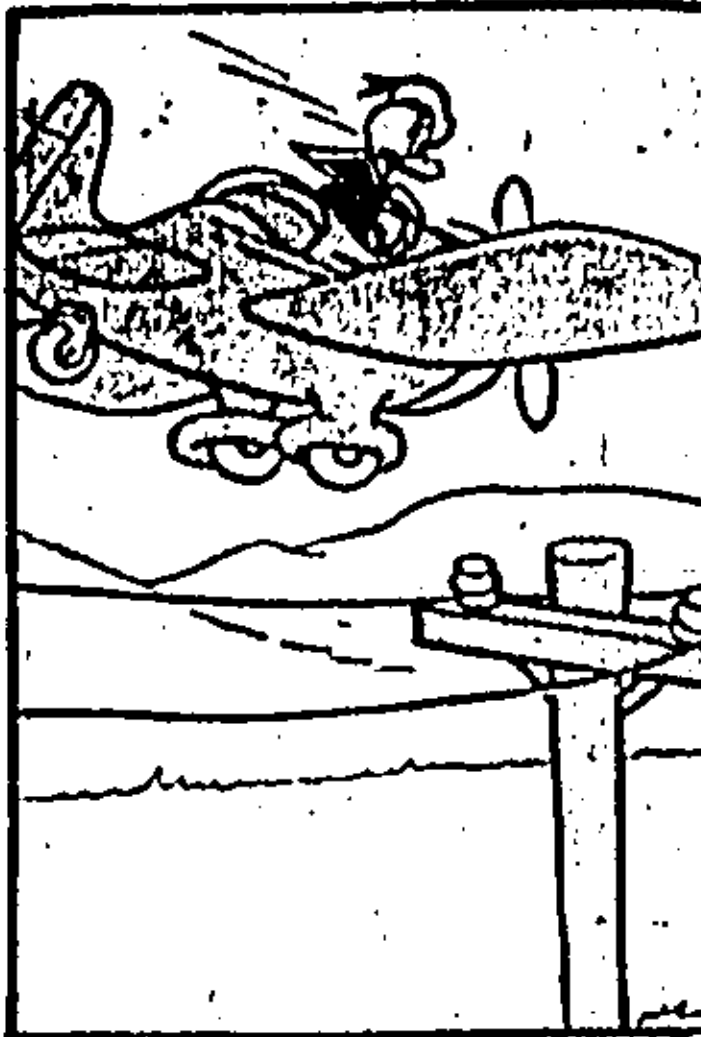
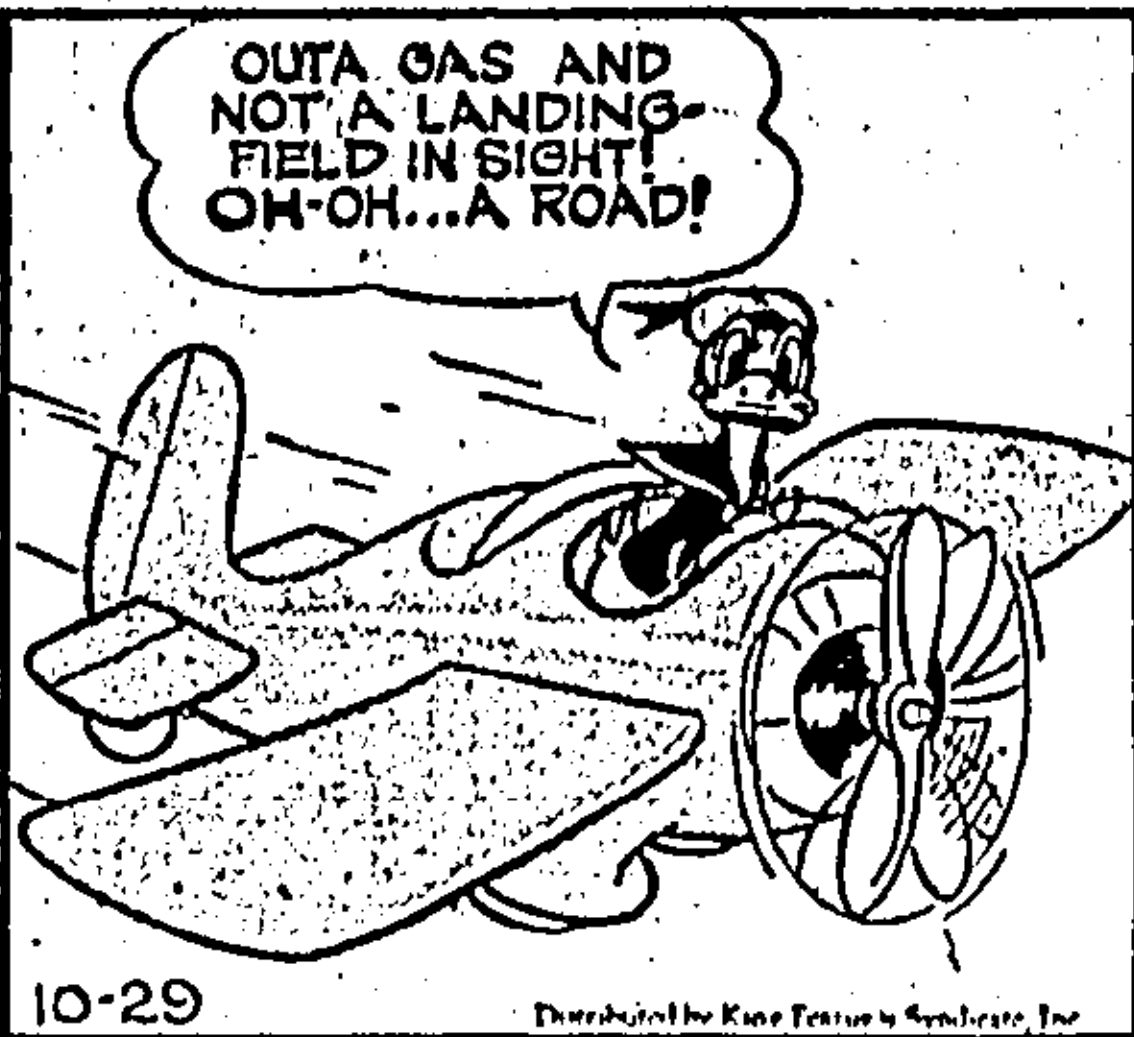
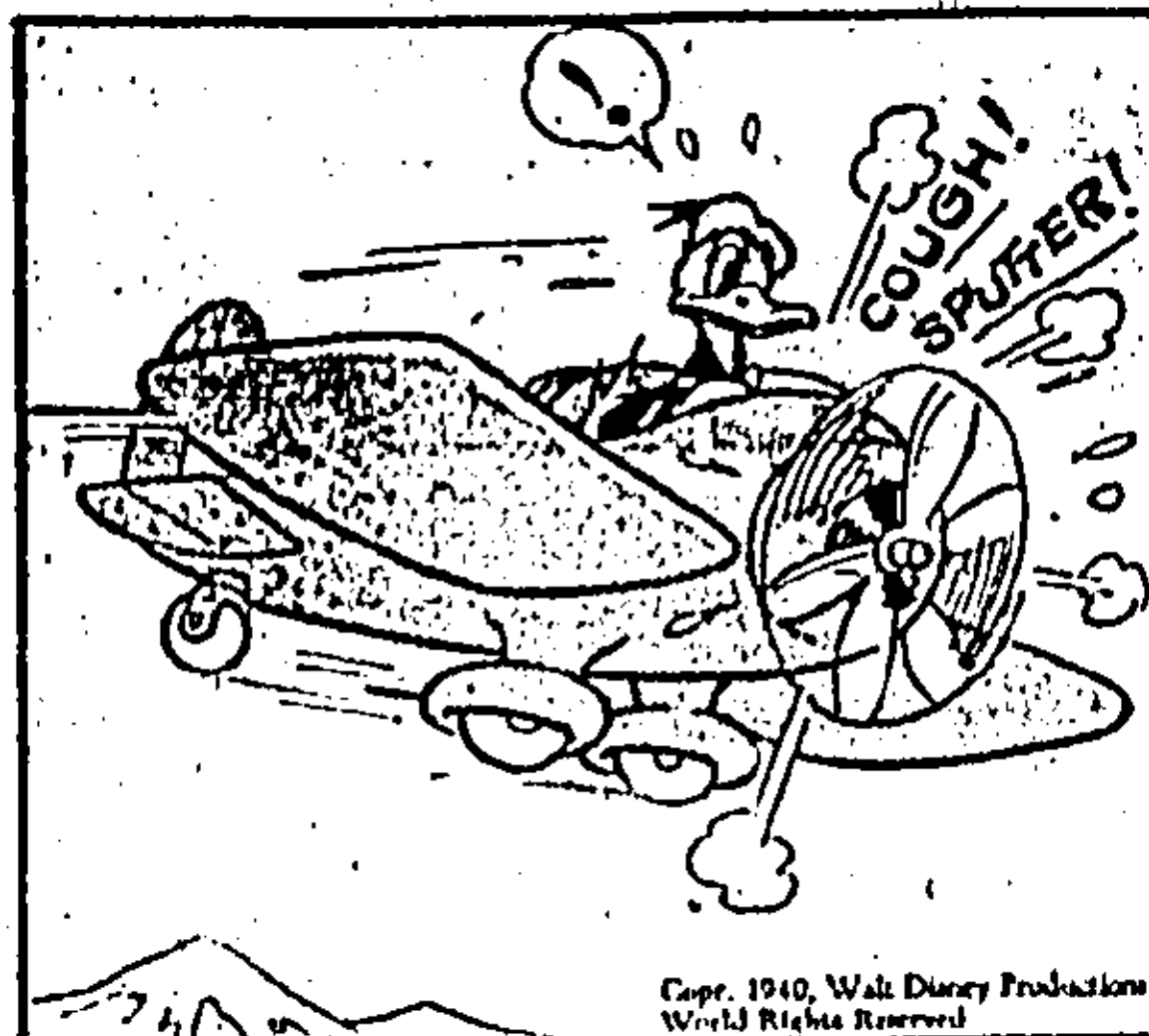
Special to the "Telegraph"

VICHY, Dec. 4 (UP).—Official quarters here to-day declared there has been no extension of the tension between Thailand and Indo-China.

On the contrary, they said, negotiations are proceeding in which the French have high hopes of a friendly settlement without sacrificing their territorial integrity.

Border Reports
HANOI, Dec. 4 (UP).—Slackening reports from the Thai border are taken here as an indication of a momentary lull. However, commu-

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By Walt Disney

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MAGAZINE PAGE

Task of the
Boy Scout Movement
In the War

AT the beginning of the war of 1914-18 the Boy Scout movement was hardly seven years old, a tender age at which to face up to a major crisis in its life; but scouting not only survived but firmly established itself as a vital educational force.

Britain was unprepared for that war but it possessed a stirring movement with a motto of "Be Prepared" for any emergency. Let them try their hand! Scout Guards for railways and factories, scout messengers, scout constables, scout bus conductors; and then when air raids came, scout first aid parties and firemen and—best remembered—the "All Clear" boys for use after air raids.

The boys were able to tackle with intelligence and enthusiasm any responsible task allotted to them. Scouting had proved its worth. It had also proved the value of its patrol system (boy leadership) in that it continued to flourish throughout the war despite the fact that the vast majority of its officers had been called to the colours.

In the story of courage and self-sacrifice it is not forgotten that 150,000 members of the movement served in the British Forces, over 10,000 gave their lives and the long list of awards and decorations made to its members was

headed by no fewer than 11 Victoria Crosses, the highest British award for gallantry.

In the years between that struggle and the present one the progress of the movement has been phenomenal. It has spread to every country in the world where democracy rules. The world total of boys and men who have benefited by its training runs into tens of millions and it is true to say that, with its sister organisation, the Girl Guide, it has approached nearer to the true ideal of world brotherhood and peace than any other organisation of its kind.

The outbreak of the present war was a blow to every member of the Scout Movement, not an international one; that is, that after God, a Scout's first duty is to his country. His country's enemies are his enemies.

In September, 1939, the scout movement in Britain was prepared, but it had to face another and even sterner test than in 1914. Most of those picturesque jobs in 1914-18 were now undertaken by the fighting Forces, the Air Raid Precautions Workers, or some other Civil Defence Unit. There was plenty of work for the Scouts to do, but it was rather humdrum stuff—messenger work, collecting waste paper, looking after evacuees—and scores of other most necessary tasks but somewhat lacking in romance and adventure.

The Scouts swallowed their disappointment and tackled all this work whole-heartedly. Those of suitable age with special qualifications have

joined the Air Raid Defence Services or Home Guard and those of military age have joined the Forces by the thousand. Already the Scout casualty list is out of all proportion to the movement's place in the population and the Scout list of awards and decorations grows day by day.

From up and down the country come reports of Commanding Officers seeking out the old Scouts in their units for responsible jobs, and tributes by the score from all the Services to the value of Scout-trained men.

Despite the value of scout training in time of war, scouting is a movement for peace; for producing men of character, capable of constructive work for the betterment of the world and the movement in Britain to-day is, in addition to its war-time activities, pursuing its normal training as far as it possibly can, certain that when victory is won it will have a major part to play in the great reconstruction.

Although to-day scouting is a world-wide movement one must still, with the exception of the U.S.A., go to Britain and the British Empire to see it flourish in that perfect freedom and liberty of action so essential to its full success. In Great Britain it threw over the chance of any political bias when it rejected a government maintenance grant in its early days with the result that to-day it receives the blessing and support of all the major political parties.

ADOPTING
PRISONERS
OF WAR

It costs £26 to "adopt" a British prisoner of war. But, if this is too much to pay all at once, you can send a weekly or monthly subscription to the British Red Cross Society.

"Subscriptions may be as low as sixpence a week, but they must be paid regularly," Lady Winifred Gore, of the Society's prisoners of war department, told a reporter in London recently.

"On receipt of the first payment we select a suitable prisoner—in the majority of cases a man from the ranks—and send his name and address to the subscriber."

"We also let the prisoner have the name and address of his benefactor, so they can correspond whenever possible."

Food and Tobacco

This scheme has appealed particularly to lonely and elderly people, and also to the very young. Several hundreds of "adoptions" have already been arranged.

Members of the National Spinners' Pensions Association have collected sufficient money to "adopt" more than 20 prisoners.

The £26 covers the cost of a weekly parcel of food, soap, cigarettes and tobacco.



Some Hongkong Scouts.

On the religious side its freedom is even more noticeable, and members of all churches find no difficulty in enjoying full membership of the movement while at the same time preserving their own individuality.

In Great Britain the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster, the Moderator of the Free Churches, the Moderator of the Church of Scotland and the Chief Rabbi are all members of the Council of the Boy Scouts Association, and from the very commencement of scouting these leaders have been consulted at every step in the development of the religious policy of the movement.

The result has been that each denomination has been

content for its members to work in full co-operation with the main organisation, the Boy Scouts Association, and there is complete confidence on all sides. Various churches have unofficial guilds to further the cause of scouting among their own members and these guilds act in an advisory capacity to the Boy Scouts Association.

This ability to overcome social and religious barriers is not the only reason why so many people are looking to the scout movement to help in the problems of the future.

It is, in addition, a movement which has overcome the barrier of all colour and class. It has established effective training for the whole of youth from eight to 30 years of age and it has an effective, system for training its own leaders.

An Answer To Brother-in-Law
Who Knows Everything

One afternoon Smith heard a call for help from his neighbour Jones. Rushing over, he found Jones in the front yard, struggling with a horse. "Lend a hand," said Jones, "I want to get him up on the porch." Smith was a kindly man, and full of curiosity, so he lent a hand.

When the horse was safely on the porch, Jones said: "Hold the door for me; I want to get him into the house." When the horse was in the hall Jones ordered, "You push while I pull. I want to get him up the stairs." They heaved and hauled and the horse whinnied and stumbled, but they got him up.

"My!" panted Jones, "I didn't think we'd make it."

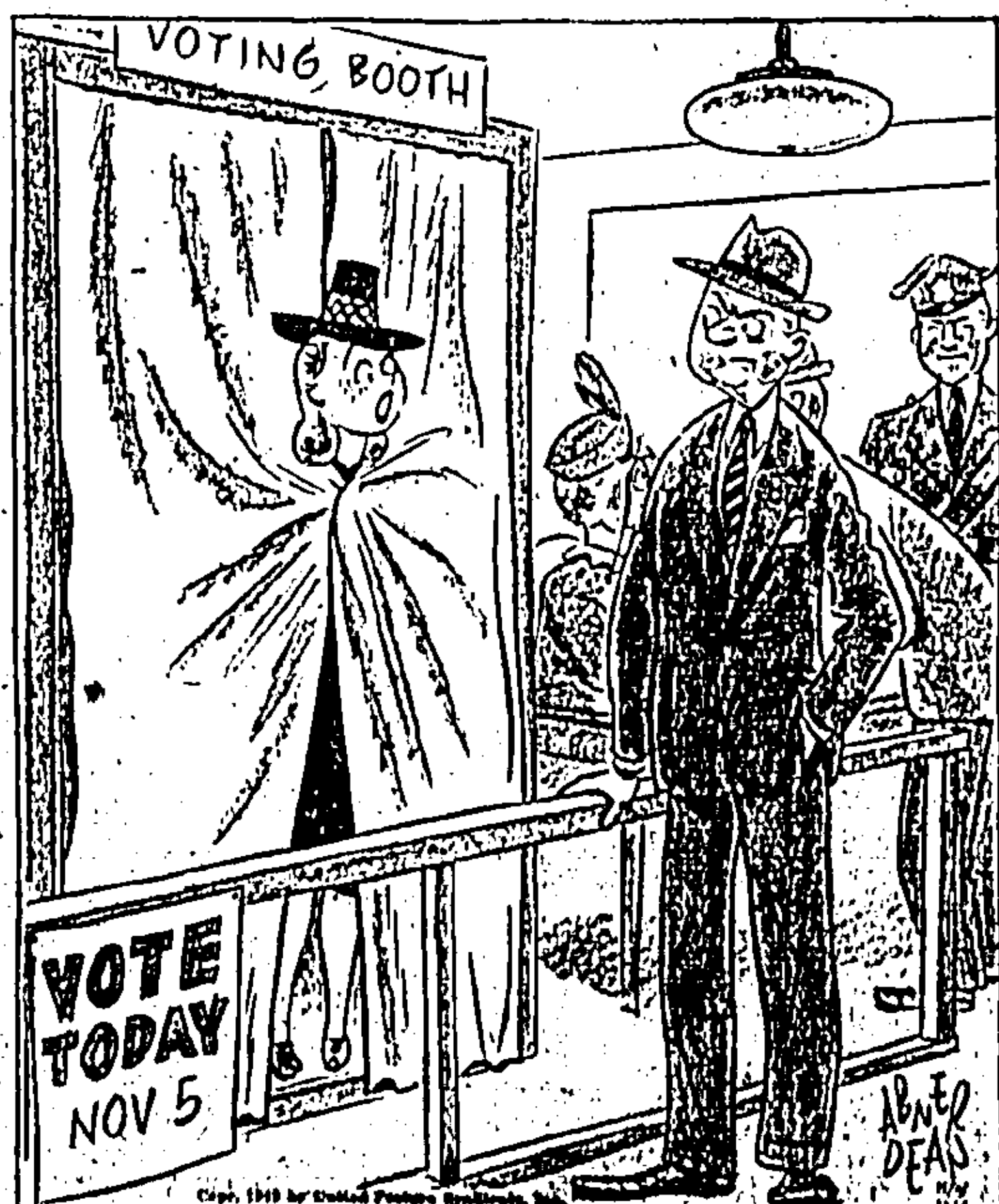
Then he led the horse into the bathroom, and pointed to the bathtub. "In he goes." With toil and trouble and infinite ingenuity they got the horse into the tub.

"And now," asked Smith, "will you please tell me what it's all about?"

"Well, you see," answered Jones, "I have a brother-in-law who thinks he knows everything. He knows all the answers. And it makes me tired. So when he comes here to-night he'll go to the bath-room and see the horse in the bathtub and come rushing out and yell, 'Great guns, Bill, there's a horse in the bathtub!' and I'll just say, 'Well, what of it?' and let him worry."

FUNNY SIDE UP

By Abner Dean



"I can't decide who to vote for, but maybe it will come to me in a flash!"

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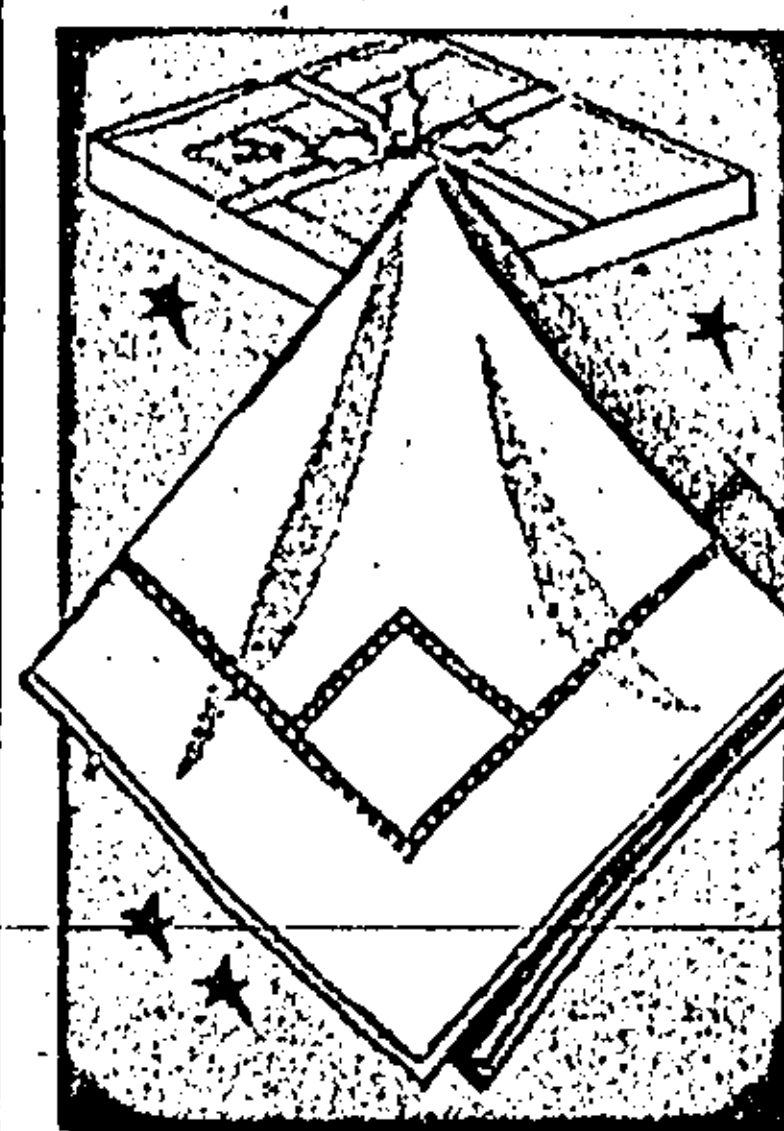


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| BD 5605 | When I Dream of Home | (Tango) | Joe Loss & Orch. |
| BD 5605 | Moonlight and Mimosa | (Tango) | Joe Loss & Orch. |
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| MII 11 | Say It My! | (Foxtrot) | Xavier Cugat. |
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The Hongkong Telegraph.

Thursday, December 5, 1940.
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HONGKONG'S RICE

THERE are indications that a first-class price-profitsteering ramp is in progress concerning the Colony's rice. On Monday the "Telegraph" revealed that the prices of Hongkong's three grades of rice had increased by three dollars in the course of a few days. Yesterday retail prices showed another substantial advance.

It appears that those in the position to control the market need only the flimsiest, and quite often unwarrantable excuse for forcing up prices. On Monday it was declared that reports of the border trouble in Indo-China had frightened them into price-raising, which merely means that they were provided with a cheap excuse for exploitation. It is true that Hongkong depends very largely on Indo-China for its supplies of rice, but as the situation concerning the importation of rice from that country has remained unchanged for some time past, the argument that Monday's reports of border strife could affect the position sufficiently to warrant such big price increases is unconvincing.

It is not suggested that Hongkong is able to import all the rice she would like for current needs, but equally true is it that no shortage exists. Rice is the Colony's most important commodity, and a daily necessity for more than nine-tenths of the population. It is, therefore, of the utmost importance that rice should be made available at prices which the poorer classes of Chinese can afford. It is consoling to know that Government is tackling the problem with vigour; it needs to be. Official price controlling is not always a satisfactory solution, but if the authorities can work out a scheme which keeps the price of rice within the pockets of those who cannot even afford anything else, and at the same time prevents vital reserve stocks from being depleted, it will have accomplished an excellent piece of work. If the Chinese population could overcome their prejudices against unpollished rice, which actually contains more nutrient than the polished commodity, and at least use it in judicious mixture with the white rice, they would make a big contribution to this end.

THE SUEZ CANAL— TO-DAY & YESTERDAY

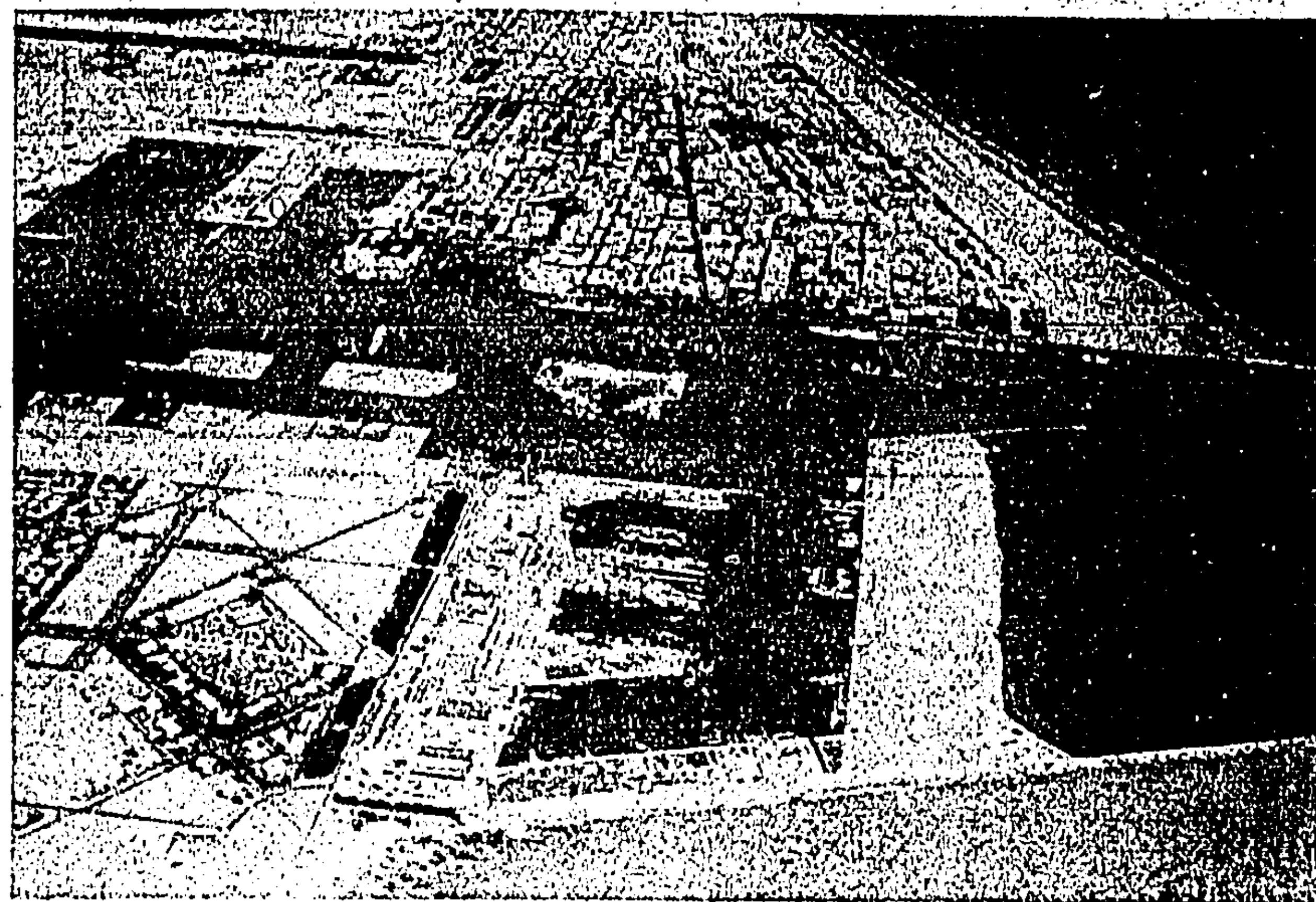
The Suez Canal, once scorned as "a ditch in the desert", is the most strategically important waterway in the world. It links Eastern and Western civilisation socially, politically, and economically.

The project to cut a waterway linking up the Mediterranean with the Red Sea was in the mind of ancient traders long before the time of Christ, but the venture never materialised for the obvious reason that engineering skill essential for such a colossal enterprise was non-existent in the days of ancient mariners.

Nevertheless, the practical necessity of a waterway linking up the merchandise of the East with the Mediterranean countries grew with the coming of civilisation. Mechanised transport, fast replacing the sailing clipper in the Eastern trade, cutting down the voyage by many weeks, re-inspired owners of steam ships still further to economise fuel and time in the voyages out East. Interest revived for economic reasons in the ancient idea of cutting a waterway from the Mediterranean to the Red Sea, and eventually a Frenchman possessing vision sought financial influence to undertake the enterprise.

★

In 1859 the idea to cut a waterway through the Isthmus of Suez to connect the Mediterranean with the Red Sea, was conceived by the French engineer, Ferdinand de Lesseps. The majority of sailors to-day call it the "Frenchman's Ditch." It is about 101 miles long, of which 21 miles are in Lakes Bala and Timsah, and the Bitter Lakes, with the width varying from 150 ft. to 400 ft., and an approximate depth varying from 33 ft. to 40 ft. It took ten years to build and was opened for transport in 1869. The total cost of the work was £16,000,000, and so little faith was displayed in the project that de Lesseps had eventually



The western entrance of the canal starts here, at Port Said. The Mediterranean is at upper right. In the foreground is the new engineers' garden city of Port Fuad; in the background is Port Said, all built since 1859 on land reclaimed from a lake.

to raise the money through issuing lotteries.

The British Government at first refused to take the scheme seriously, many statesmen believing it impossible to excavate a channel in the sand deep enough for large ships to pass through, but the far-sighted Prime Minister Disraeli, after a great struggle in Parliament and with the Bank of England, succeeded in subscribing £4,080,000 and obtaining 44 per cent. of the Suez Canal Company's shares. When these shares were first put on the market in Great Britain there, was not a single application on the Stock Exchange.

To-day it is impossible to think of trade with the East without the Suez Canal which reduces a voyage of 11,200 miles, (if taken around the Cape), to 6,300 miles with the consequent saving of time and fuel.

Towards the upkeep of the Canal, and for interest on share capital, tolls are levied on every ship passing through the Canal whether loaded or empty. In a 5,000-ton cargo carrier would have to pay about

£700 loaded for a return journey through the Canal. Liners carrying passengers pay approximately 1/9d per head. The Company considers the percentage charged in dues is small when compared with the value of the cargo.

It must always be remembered that the initial building of the Suez Canal is one of the world's great romances of individual enterprise, and was fostered by two nations, France and England, with the former owning the major share and being charged with the construction of the Canal under de Lesseps.

To-day the Canal is completely under British and Egyptian military control, while the British Navy guards both ends of the waterway, in a position, in fact, to say which ship shall use the canal and which shall not.

The fact that the Canal is under French management has so far made no difference to the actual situation. The French staff had proved entirely loyal in its co-operation with the British military authorities. Even if, under German or Ita-

lian pressure, they ceased to be so, it would make no difference. Should the Germans seize the company's funds and stocks in Paris, it would not affect the situation. The Canal continues to carry frequent British cargoes to the Near East and everything is normal save the fact that fewer vessels use the waterway and none of them German or Italian.

Greek and Yugoslav traffic, has, however, recently increased. Greek trade with Red Sea ports and Indian Ocean ports is reported booming.

Italy's position, now she has entered the war, has changed to her obvious disadvantage; she is debarred from using the Canal and is unable to reach her Abyssinian Empire. The Cape of Good Hope route is also closed to her by British command of the seas.

★

The Suez Canal enterprise has been successful from its inception, and in the last thirty years it has made amazing profits; besides increasing twenty-fold the exchange of goods and services between the East and West, it has also brought vast sums to its shareholders. The original shares normally carry 200 per cent. interest, and a more recent issue carries 20 per cent. interest. A year's working of the Canal earns profits running into millions. Already the British share of interest since its opening amounts to approximately £45,000,000.

In a year of peace 6,000 ships use the Canal. The passage takes about 18 hours at a speed of between 8 and 10 knots. Powerful electric reflectors enable ships to travel by night. Great Britain's ships make most use of the Canal, taking nearly half of the 30,000,000 tons of shipping using the Canal in an average year. In order of tonnage in normal times the other nations were Germany, Holland, France, Italy and Japan, whilst the smaller nations aggregated about a tenth of the total tonnage.

BY
**ARTHUR
LAMSELY**

Paris Is Now A City Of Empty Shops And German Refugees

From A Correspondent

Writing from Lisbon

This picture of Paris under the German heel was given me by a Frenchman recently arrived from occupied France.

French citizens seeking to pass to the unoccupied zone, he said, have to go through an almost endless series of formalities before they get a permit which takes them only to Vichy. They are allowed to take just sufficient funds to do this.

At Vichy there is a similar inquisition before they are allowed an exit permit and only enough money to take them to their destination.

The old life of Paris is ended, in spite of measures taken by the Germans to give the impression that it still goes on.

The Nazis have ordered all shops, commercial establish-

ments, hotels, cafes to remain open, although most shop-owners have tried to persuade their conquerors that since they have nothing to sell they had better remain closed.

Cabarets must also be open, although when this order was first given serious troubles arose between Frenchmen and Germans over cabaret girls. Then the Germans decided that the Frenchmen should be barred from all but three small cabarets.

Frenchwomen are allowed everywhere. The Germans are extremely polite to everybody.

A typical case of the spirit of an old Frenchwoman was shown recently when a number of shop girls were met by German officers and asked to pose for a photograph. When they were all smiles the old woman walked up and told them they ought to be ashamed to talk in the streets with such people. The

girls walked off and left the officers flab.

German officers and soldiers may be seen in groups of eight or ten, carrying cameras and field-glasses, walking the streets. There is practically no traffic, for there is no petrol. The exception is a few official cars.

The French walk as though they were carrying a heavy burden. The boulevardiers are no more.

But the German idea is still to make Paris look as if it was the Paris of old, to give a good impression to the thousands of refugees from the Rhineland and North-West Germany who have gone to Paris to escape the British bombing.

One German to whom my informant talked said life in Germany was absolutely unbearable. The people could not get any sleep.

The refugee problem was becoming every day more serious, and to deal with it the German authorities had special offices in centres where the British bombing was considered too heavy.

GREATER WAR EFFORT URGED IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON, Dec. 4 (British Wireless).—The House of Commons resuming the debate, heard a series of speeches from back-benchers almost all devoted to urging upon the Government more drastic action to mobilise the entire resources of the country for victory.

Earl Winterton expressed disappointment at what he considered the failure of government spokesmen to give a convincing answer to criticisms voiced earlier in the debate.

There was a general desire, he said, to see Britain take the offensive in the field but the real offensive must first take place in factories and shipyards. He urged also the vital importance of harnessing the resources of India and Africa to provide supplies for the Middle East campaign. At home he advocated compulsory measures for control of resources and the transference and training of manpower.

Mr. Seymour Hicks (Lab.) agreed that on the home front they must strip to the waist for victory. He echoed a demand frequently heard in the course of the debate for constant and vigorous attack against Italy.

Since The Crusades

Mr. Buchanan, one of the three I.L.P. members, the only group in the House not giving unreserved support to the war effort, expressed the view that a military victory by Germany was impossible and it was also impossible by Britain. He said that the sooner there was negotiated peace, the happier he, as a pacifist, would be.

Mr. Vernon Bartlett (Ind.) said there had never been a war since the Crusades in which the moral factors were so much on one side and the material factors were on the other. He stressed the importance of the allies making sure that they secured the support to which it entitled them by a clear declaration of war aims.

Sir J. Wardlaw Milne (Con.) was not satisfied that the full industrial strength of the country was yet being thrown into the struggle. Speaking for the Government in the course of the debate, the Lord President of the Council, Sir John Anderson, warned Members against seeking immediate results at the expense of the systematic development of productive capacity by which the full weight of Britain's effort would in due time be brought to bear "grudgingly on the enemy."

Taking up Earl Winterton's point, he called attention to the recent successful conference of the eastern group at Delhi. Recommendations had just become available to Government which would come to a decision with the least possible delay.

Fighting In N. Kiangsu

Belated Reports from Front

CHUNGKING, Dec. 5 (Central News).—Fighting has flared up again in north Kiangsu. Japanese troops based at Hwaling pushed south while those based at Paoying drove north. They met with strong Chinese resistance.

Japanese sailing out from Kaoyu in steam and wooden boats were attacked by the Chinese. Three steam boats and several wooden boats were sunk. The Japanese returned to Kaoyu.

Chinese troops unleashed a vigorous attack on the south bank at Ichang, upper Yangtze port in Hupeh, on November 30, exacting a heavy toll of lives.

On the same day several Chinese columns launched simultaneous attacks at Tachai in the Ichang sector. Breaking through barbed-wire entanglements, they engaged in hand-to-hand fighting.

On the north Yangtze bank Chinese troops made an attack at Nantshingwan under a protective barrage early in the morning of December 1. Japanese troops marching from Wulshih in the southern suburbs of Tungcheng in south Hupeh into by a clear declaration of war aims.

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JAPANESE POLICY ANALYSED

Present Incidents and D.E.I.

CHUNGKING, Dec. 5 (Reuter).—The outbreak of fighting between Indo-China and Thailand shows that Japan is determined to proceed with her southward expansion programme, declares the "Central Daily News."

"It is particularly noteworthy that Thailand is resorting to armed force after the suspension of negotiations in Batavia between Japan and the Netherlands East Indies."

"Japan is making use of Thailand to pave the way to complete occupation of Indo-China as a base for her southward expansion. Meanwhile, in the Netherlands East Indies refuse to come to terms Japan will take armed action against them."

"It is reported that as a result of negotiations between Vichy and Tokyo, Japan has already secured the French Government's agreement to the establishment of air bases at Saigon."

The newspaper is convinced that there is an "intimate connection between the clash of Indo-China and Thailand and the situation in the Netherlands East Indies. In other words, Japan is now on the eve of her southward expansion. At the same time we believe that if the United States has a firm determination to check Japan, she can do so before the situation gets out of hand."

EFFECTIVE BRITISH BLOCKADE

Chinese Comment

CHUNGKING, Dec. 5 (Reuter).—The chances of Germany breaking through the British blockade are very slight, declares the official "Central Daily News" leading article.

"During the last European war before the entry of the United States, Germany controlled more territory in Europe than she does now. On the land Germany's only outlet will be to push through the Balkans."

"It is true that British shipping losses to-day are extremely serious but Britain can purchase ships from America and her own construction must be considerable. We cannot say that it is impossible for Germany to break through the British blockade but the chances must be very slight indeed."

No Truce For Christmas

SPECIAL TO THE "TELEGRAPH"

LONDON, Dec. 4 (UP).—There is no chance of a Christmas truce, according to authoritative sources here to-day. They pointed out that truces and time-outs cannot be prevented from exploding.

Berlin Statement. BERLIN, Dec. 4 (UP).—"In view of Churchill's rejection of the truce proposals any statement would be superfluous," authorised quarters here stated to-day.

British Attitude To Far East

Nanking To Be Ignored

London, Dec. 4 (Reuter).—"Mr. Morgan can rest assured that H. M. Government will maintain close contact with the United States Government in all matters of common interest," Mr. R. A. Butler, Under-Secretary of Foreign Affairs, in reply to Mr. Robert Morgan's question inviting an Anglo-American declaration of opposition to the so-called New Order which Japan is trying to introduce in China and the whole Pacific.

Replying to Sir R. Gower's question inviting a statement of British policy towards the Nanking Government, Mr. Butler said that H. M. Government had repeatedly made known its attitude, which is to continue to recognise the National Government of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek as the Government of China.

Predicts U.S. Will Enter The War

SPECIAL TO THE "TELEGRAPH"

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 4 (UP).—"There is no doubt" that the United States will enter the war because "those in command are perfectly made to be 'in the game'" declared Senator Hiram Johnson to-day.

He added that any repeal of the Johnson Act would result in "great bickering" between the two nations when peace comes.

SWAM FOUR HOURS BEFORE RESCUE

Six survivors of the sailboat Neustra Senora del Rosario, which sank off the Balaguer coast in the Philippines, reported that they swam four hours and sighted four vessels before the fifth, the Aloha, rescued them.

Three members of the crew are missing.

Germany Tightens Her Hold On Rumania

Special to the "Telegraph"

BERLIN, Dec. 4 (UP).—The official news agency reports that Germany has signed a new agreement regarding German-Rumanian co-operation for carrying out an economic ten year plan for Rumania.

The new agreement protocol calls for the following terms:—

1.—The granting of long term credits to Rumania by Germany.

2.—The intensification of co-

PREMIER TO FIND ANSWER

To U-Boat Problem

SPECIAL TO THE "TELEGRAPH"

LONDON, Dec. 4 (UP).—In the House of Commons to-day, Sir John Anderson, Lord President of the Council, said that Mr. Churchill is personally directing the search for an answer to the grave problem resulting from attacks on the overseas supply lines.

He said the nation can be confident, as in the world war, that an early and effective solution would be reached.

In addition, the Government may have to apply its labour compulsion powers to the industrial centres of reconstruction which were heavily bombed.

Summary Of War In Air

6,000 Enemies Downed

LONDON, Dec. 4 (Reuter).—In 14 months of the war, Britain and her allies have accounted for over 6,000 enemy planes not including "possibles" or "probables."

To date British anti-aircraft gunners have shot down over 400 enemy planes over Britain, 300 by day and over 100 by night. The total number of enemy planes shot down over Britain is now 3,000. This total was reached on Monday when two Messerschmitts were shot down for the loss of only one British fighter, the pilot of which is safe.

This total does not include 25 enemy planes destroyed by the Royal Navy and the Fleet Air Arm around our coasts.

British losses over Britain total 850 planes or more than a 3-to-1 victory. Better still, 415 pilots were saved to fly again, a victory of 7½-to-1.

Hitler's worst months were August when 1,086 enemy planes were brought down, and September when 1,071 German planes were shot out of the sky.

Impersonation And Extortion

Charged with impersonating a Police officer and with attempting to extort \$5 from a hawkker, Wong Kan, 23, appeared before Mr. E. Himsforth at Kowloon Magistracy this morning.

Evidence was given that about 3 a.m. on December 2 complainant, Tsang Kan, 18, hawkker, was walking along Temple Street, near Public Square Street, when defendant and another man approached him and informed him that they were Police Officers; they asked him to accompany them to the Police Station where he would have to pay a fine of \$5 for hawking. A constable came on the scene and complainant explained what had happened. The two men then attempted to escape, but defendant was caught.

For impersonating a Police officer Wong was ordered to pay \$200 or to serve three months hard labour, and for attempting to extort \$5 from the complainant, he was sentenced to a further six months' hard labour.

Central District Killing Drama

Believed by the police to have been murdered, a northern Chinese, Woo Tong-chiu, 28 years of age, was found dead, with his head almost severed and bearing other severe wounds, when police had to force their way into a room at 3, Gilman Bazaar, central district, this morning.

Neighbours heard cries of "Save Life" and called the police, who found the door of Woo's room locked on the outside. Upon breaking down the door they discovered Woo's body and also the unconscious form of 19-year-old Wong Shu-kam, who was suffering from wounds. Wong was rushed to the hospital.

It has been revealed that the dead man was clerk in the employ of the Chung Wah Book Company, while the injured man is a coolie.

More Laid Up Ships May Be Released

LONDON, Dec. 4 (Reuter).—An unconfirmed report says that the United States will shortly release thousands of tons of Merchant shipping to Britain and the United States.

Maritime Commission which yesterday authorized the Black Diamond S.S. Company to sell to Britain four cargo ships, is expected to offer 15 more laid up ships in a few days.

OVERCOATS in Readiness

Overcoat time approaches and finds Mackintosh's in readiness with a notable display of AQUASCUTUM Coats.

There are coats in the newest designs, colourings and styles for every occasion of autumn and winter, and remarkable examples of value for price.



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ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH HALL
ON
TUESDAY & THURSDAY
17th and 19th DECEMBER

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TICKETS ---- \$2 and \$1.
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Under the Distinguished Patronage of H.E. the Acting Governor.

THE HONGKONG SINGERS
assisted by Y. K. SZE (bass)
and a String Orchestra
will give a
CONCERT OF MADRIGALS
AND PART-SONGS

on Thursday, December 19th, 1940.
at 9.30 p.m. in the
ROSE ROOM, PENINSULA HOTEL.

Tickets \$3, \$2, \$1, obtainable at Peninsula Hotel & Hongkong Hotel.
All proceeds will be given to the Lord Mayor's Fund for the relief of air raid victims.

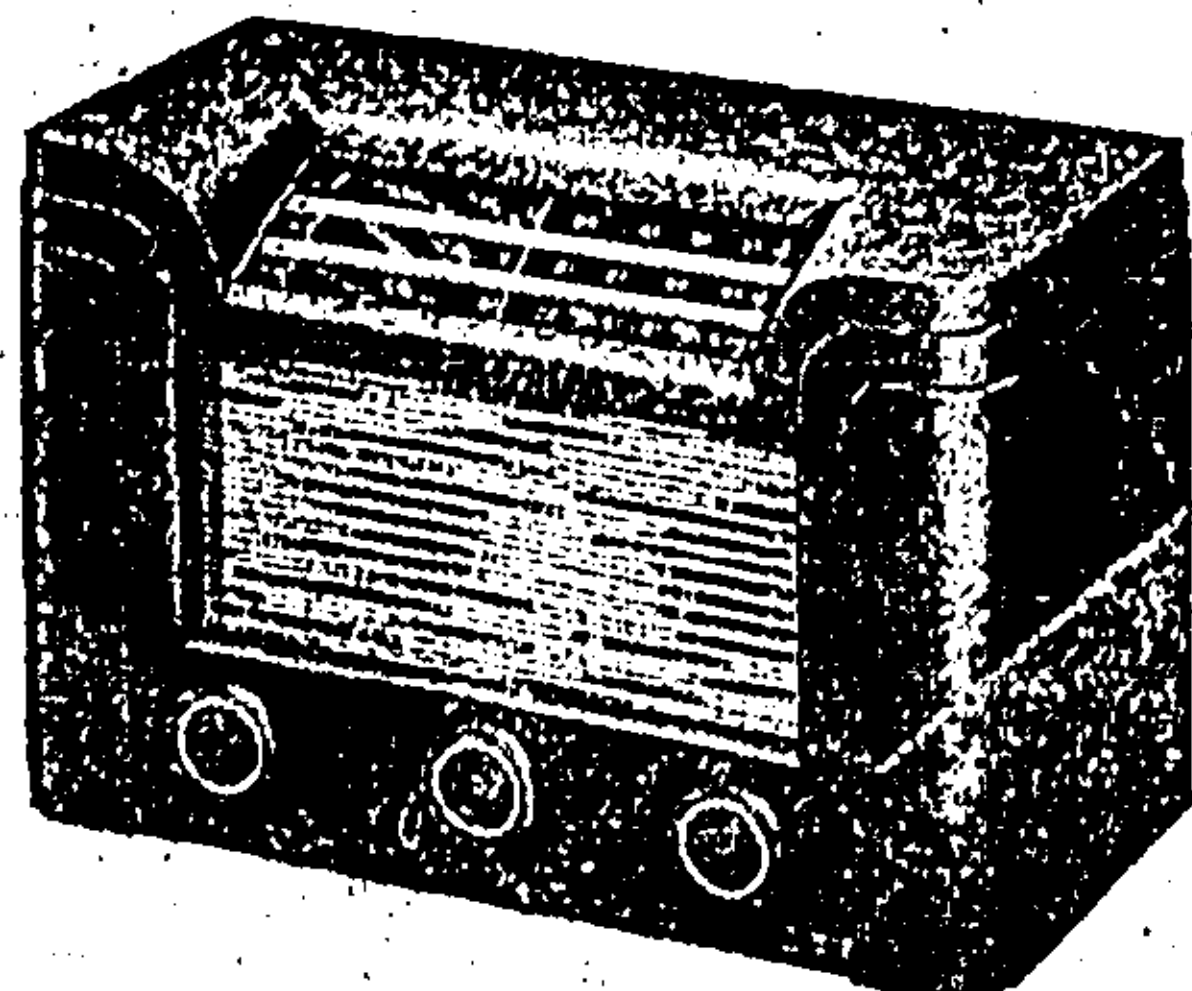
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NANCY



Crossword Puzzle

By LARS MORRIS

ACROSS

1—Winged elm
6—Line of cut grass
11—Join firmly
12—Whips
14—Cause to adjust again
15—How to reach
16—Cutting tool
17—Work for
18—President
19—Pronoun
20—Savior
21—Compliment
22—Dark currents
23—Tail bark
24—Cuddles of the earth
25—Pleasant
26—Pore around
27—Pore around
28—Pore around
29—Pore around
30—Pore around
31—Pore around
32—Pore around
33—Pore around
34—Pore around
35—Pore around
36—Pore around
37—Pore around

DOWN

1—Removed weeds
2—Surprised
3—Jibber (abbr.)
4—Durdur
5—Aquatic mammals
6—Slave-traffic
7—Bunch of hay
8—Baptist
9—Beloved of Pyramus
10—Announce
11—Deaf strongly
12—Long sent
13—International
14—Language
15—Tense
16—Hour and bitter
17—Compas point
18—Relief
19—Who
20—Who
21—Who
22—Who
23—Who
24—Who
25—Who
26—Who
27—Who
28—Who
29—Who
30—Who
31—Who
32—Who
33—Who
34—Who
35—Who
36—Who
37—Who

Britain's Rationing Is Light: Axis Peoples Endure Hardship

"Reuter's" Chief Diplomatic Correspondent

LONDON, Dec. 4 (Reuter).—The decision of Lord Woolton, Minister of Food, to limit quantities of certain rationed foods and to ban entirely the importation of fruit, other than oranges, is the subject for gloating on the part of Italian propaganda services.

They interpret these measures in the light of their own situation and experience, and prophesy that Britain will soon be brought to her knees by the attempted blockade vigorously exercised by Germany.

They do not realise the very small effect the British system of rationing really has upon the gastronomic life of Britain. Except for butter, sugar, bacon and eggs, which are admittedly scarcer than before the war, the ordinary person has hardly noticed the effect of the food restriction policy.

Game and poultry are not rationed at all. There is no lack of potatoes and green vegetables, though onions are scarce.

On the other hand there is no limit to groceries and tinned foods that are accessible to all purchasers. In Italy, where four meatless days a week have already been legally imposed, it has now been found necessary to curtail staple foods of the country, namely macaroni and rice.

In future Italians are restricted to two kilograms of either flour (gluten) or rice per month.

Seeing that a normal Italian would think nothing of facing a plate of half a pound of spaghetti or macaroni (a quarter of a kilo) it is obvious that this small ration will mean real privation.

Even Italian papers realise the severity of the sacrifice, but find comfort in pointing out that in Germany only half a kilo of rice or gluten is allowed per head per month, and even then it is part of the general dietary rations.

Envisaging Britain's food position as pitiful to every foreigner living in England—Italian—propaganda of wilful misrepresentation may help Italians to bear their troubles more lightly, but it is not going to make the people any better pleased with the regime that is responsible for their privations.

Exchange At A Glance

SELLING	
T.T. London	1/2 3/4
Demand London	1/2 3/4
T.T. Shanghai	380
T.T. Singapore	52 1/2
T.T. India	100
T.T. Japan	82 1/2
T.T. U.S.A.	23 1/4
T.T. Manila	40 1/4
T.T. Batavia	43 1/4
T.T. Bangkok	148 1/4
T.T. Saigon	101
T.T. France	Nom.
T.T. Switzerland	59
T.T. Australia	1/6 1/4
BUYING	
4 m/s L/C London	1/3 1/4
4 m/s D/P London	1/3 1/4
4 m/s L/C U.S.A.	24 1/4
4 m/s France	Nom.
30 d/s India	84 1/4
U.S. Cross rate in London	4.02 1/2
U.S. Cross rate in N.Y.	4.03 1/2

H.K. Stock Market

The following quotations were issued on the Hongkong Stock Market this morning.

BANKS	
H.K. Banks	1,275 b.
H.K. Banks (H.K.)	72 n.
Chartered	73 n.
Mercantile, C. & F.	25 1/4 n.
East-Asia	10 1/4 n.
INSURANCES	
Canton	185 b.
Union	319 n.
China Underwriters	1 n.
H.K. Fire	150 n.
SHIPPING	
Douglas	135 n.
Steamboats	11 n.
Indo-China P.	100 n.
Indo-China D.	80 n.
Shell (Bearers) s/-	33 3/4 n.
Waterboats	7 n.
DOCKS ETC.	
Wharves	80 1/4 n.
Docks (old)	17.10 b.
Docks (new)	10 1/2 b.
Providents	5.10/25 n.
Shai Dockyards	31 1/4 n.
MINING	
Kaitian s/-	16/3 n.
Rauhs	9 1/4 n.
H.K. Mines	1 1/4 cts. n.
LANDS	
Hotels	3 1/4 n.
Lands	31 1/2 b.
Lands 4% Debentures	100 n.
Shai Lands Sh	11 1/4 n.
Humphreys	7.20 n.
H.K. Realities	3 1/2 b.
Chinese Estates	100 n.
UTILITIES	
Trams	17 1/4 n.
Peak Trams (old)	7.40 n.
Peak Trams (new)	3.70 n.
Star Ferries	58 n.
Y. Ferries	22 1/2 b.
China Lights (old) s. c. d.	7.10 b.
China Lights (new) s. c. d.	0.70 b.
H.K. Electric (old)	38 1/4 b.
H.K. Electric (new)	38 b.
Macao Electric (old)	17 1/4 n.
Macao Electric (new)	17 1/4 n.
Sandakan Lights	11 1/4 n.
Telephones (old)	24 1/2 b.
Telephones (new)	10 b. & 5 n.
INDUSTRIALS	
Caid: Macg. (Ord.), Sh.	14.00 n.
Caid: Macg. (Pref.), Sh.	12 n.
Canton Ice	1 n.
Cements	17 1/2 3/4 n.
H.K. Rope	0.00 b.
STORES, &c.	
Dairy Farms	18 1/4 b.
Walsons	10.20 b.
Lane Crawfords	10 n.
Sinceres	2.15 n.
Wing On (H.K.)	30 n.
Powell Ltd.	1.00 b.
COTTON MILLS	
Eyo Sh.	38 1/4 n.
Shai Cotton Sh.	105 n.
MISC.	
H.K. Govt. 4%	98 n.
H.K. Govt. 3 1/2% (1934)	94 n.
H.K. Govt. 3 1/2% (1940)	94 n.
Ch. Govt. 5% 1925 C.R.Ds.	98 n.
H.K. Enterprisers	6.05 b.
Constructions (old)	1.00 b.
Constructions (new)	1 n.
Vibro Piling	7.80 n.
Marmans Inv. (Lon.)	7 1/2 n.
Marmans Inv. (H.K.)	2 1/2 n.

Rumania's Oil Control

Government Taking Over SPECIAL TO THE "TELEGRAPH" BUCHAREST, Dec. 4 (UP).

—The Government has issued a decree for taking over all pipelines and their accessories from all the oil companies in Rumania for which they will pay with three per cent. bonds, redeemable in 25 years.

It was also decreed that the Government will take over all Jewish shipping, and all ships and barges belonging to Jews or Jewish companies for which the Government will pay with three per cent. bonds redeemable in five years.

STOCK EXCHANGE

LONDON, Dec. 4 (Reuter).—The Stock Exchange, in the absence of an incentive to stimulate fresh buying interest, had a dull session to-day. Cautious securities, however, continued to meet support and bids, where changed, moved in the holders' favour.

Industrials were heavy especially store shares, which were adversely influenced by rationing considerations. Wall Street was irregular.

Desert Warfare

CAIRO, Dec. 4 (Reuter).—British patrol were active again to the north and south of Kassala in the Sudan, inflicting casualties on the enemy without loss to themselves.

There is no change on other fronts, states a communiqué.

Ford Favors Aid

DETROIT, Dec. 4 (Reuter).—Mr. Henry Ford said in an interview to-day that if Britain needed money he was in favour of "giving them" all he wanted.

He added, "I will end the war in a hurry. We do it before and we might as well do it again."

China Repays Her Credits

SPECIAL TO THE "TELEGRAPH" WASHINGTON, Dec. 4 (UP).—China has repaid over \$5,000,000 from the \$20,000,000 borrowed from the United States, the payments being made mostly in tung oil, Mr. Jesse Jones, Secretary of Commerce revealed to-day.

He added that several hundred thousand dollars of the repayment consisted of tin shipments, and remarked: "China must hurry her mining."

British Loan Hinted

SHANGHAI, Dec. 4 (Reuter).—Close on the heels of America's recent \$100,000,000 loan to China, the British Government are reported to be considering a six million sterling credit to China, according to Chinese Press despatches.

Previously Britain granted China a three million sterling loan. Another Chinese Press report says that negotiations for a huge loan from Britain and Russia is proceeding smoothly.

Texaco Name Change In Philippines

Application has been made to the Securities and Exchange Commission in Manila by the Texas Company (Philippines) Inc. to change its corporate name to Caltex (Philippines) Inc.

It was stated by officials of the company that the change was a matter of policy and there would be no change in the products sold.

The Texas Company in the Philippines was formed in 1921 to handle Texaco gasoline and other products manufactured in America. When the company merged its marketing facilities east of Suez with new producing facilities in the same area, the California Texas Oil Company was formed. Thus the new Caltex concern is essentially a merger of the two existing organisations.

HELP FOR GASTRITIS VICTIMS

The great problem in gastritis and other digestive disturbances is how to rest the sick stomach and still nourish the exhausted body.

Solid food is out of the question. Even many liquid foods irritate the stomach lining and cause pains and vomiting. There is a food, however, which actually soothes the inflamed stomach. It is Horlicks. Doctors recommend it in all cases of severe digestive trouble because it is so easily assimilated and so highly nutritious.

Horlicks is a complete food in itself. It soon rebuilds the wasted tissues, restores the lost appetite, pours strength and vitality into the impoverished bloodstream. Your usual store sells Horlicks. Get a supply to-day.

FOR EVACUATES

HONGKONG'S NEWS OF THE WEEK

Every Monday the "Telegraph" publishes a full page of local news covering the whole of the preceding week.

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THE SIMPLEST and SPEEDIEST way YOU can help WIN THE WAR is to give regular CASH DONATIONS to the Government.

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NO SUM TOO LARGE. NO SUM TOO SMALL.

Fill in the form below and HELP WIN THE WAR.

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The Manager, Bank, Hongkong.

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Commencing 2nd. January, 1941, and until further notice, please transfer the sum of \$..... Monthly to "War Fund, South China Morning Post Ltd." and debit my current account.

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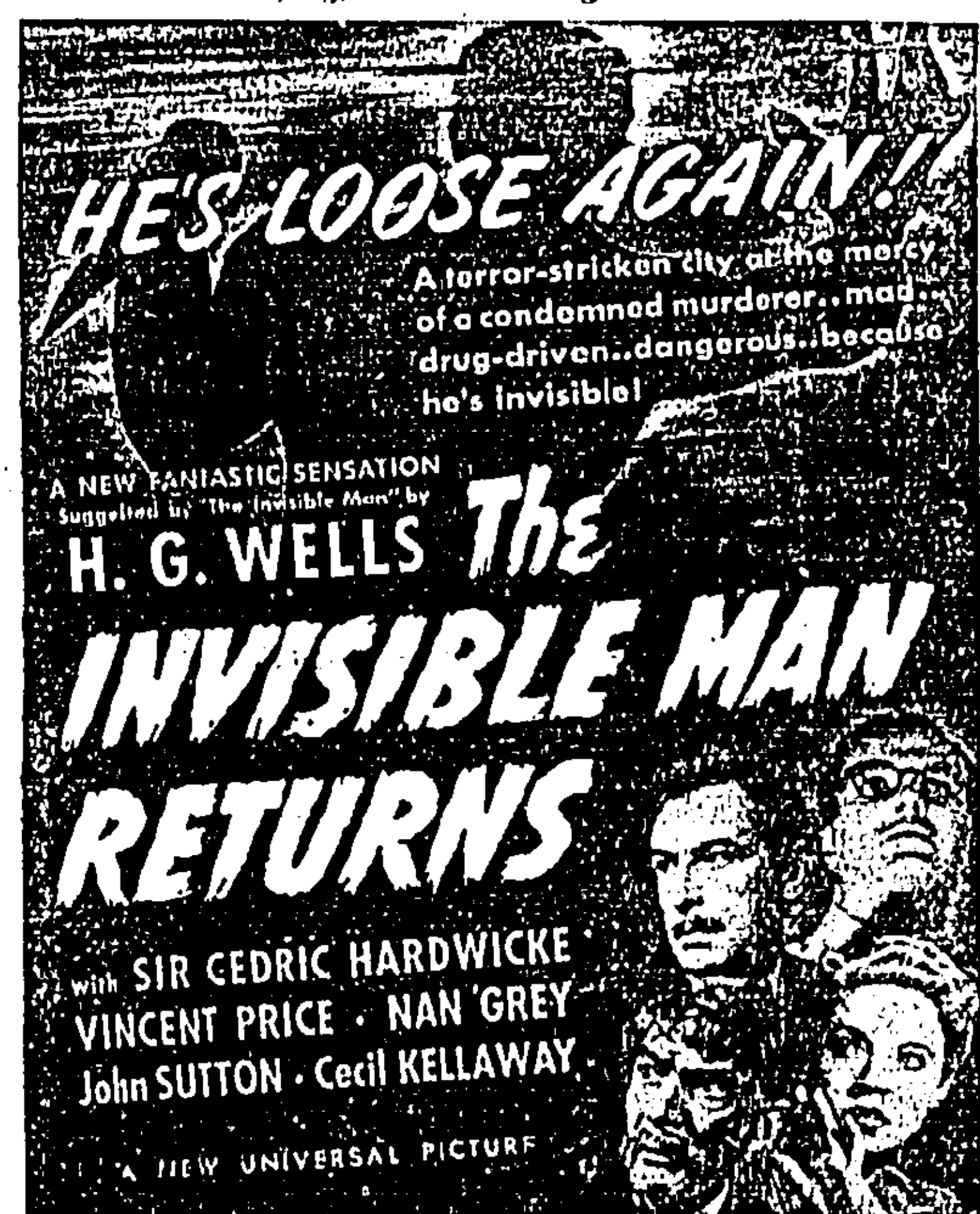
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Commencing Sunday
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Anglo-Turkish Commercial Treaty Wounds Nazi Prestige

LONDON, Dec. 4 (Reuter).—The British and Turkish Governments have now concluded arrangements which they hope will bring about a considerable increase of trade through commercial exchanges between Turkey and the British Empire.

R.A.F. To Destroy Nazis' War Strength

FROM PAGE ONE

The present arrangement is complementary to the trade and payments agreement signed in London on February 3.

Challenge In Balkans
(BY "REUTERS" DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT)
LONDON, Dec. 4.—The Anglo-Turkish financial agreement is not only of commercial but also political significance as it is, in fact, a challenge by the British Government to German domination of the Balkans. It is believed possible that Germany may put forward a tempting commercial proposition to Turkey but the agreement should prevent her ever getting her old economic predominance over Turkish economy.

The agreement is the result of long discussion and covers the whole field of financial and commercial relations between the parties. It will facilitate the purchase of Turkish agricultural and other products of which is necessary to her national economy. The purchases will run into millions of sterling.

Italy Feels Pinch
Italy would feel the pinch even before Germany, said Mr. Dalton, because she had no synthetic oil plant and there was little doubt that her supplies were growing short, and she had to get replenishment from Germany.

Mr. Dalton would like to see an increasing mobilisation of reserves of United States production set aside for Britain and her Allies, and added "there have been exchanges of views with the United States on the matter."

ITALIANS IN FLIGHT

FROM PAGE ONE

Bouma, and the destruction of the so-called "death battalions" of the Ferrara division, after an all night battle in which the Italians resisted stubbornly.

This has facilitated the Greek advance on Argyro-Castron.

In the north, the Greeks have occupied new heights to the north of mount Ostrova, which is now entirely in Greek hands.

On the northern front, the Italian counter-attack near Lake Ochrid was repulsed, and many men were taken prisoners.

Greeks Push On
ATHENS, Via Zurich, Dec. 4 (UP).—It is reliably reported that Greek patrols to-night entered the outskirts of Sante Quaranta.

Mountain Passes Blocked
STRUGA, Dec. 4 (UP).—Frontier reports say that after last night's continuous snow storms, virtually all the mountain passes are blocked with deep snow. It was still snowing late today along the whole front line which is preventing operations on a big scale.

In the Causse sector, the Greeks advanced along the northern road in the direction of El Bassan and occupied, without fighting, the villages of Kijukas and Djura.

It is reported that the Greeks in the Argyro-Castron sector crossed the Deshull River near the village of Vrasite and occupied the village of Libonova, forcing the Italians to retreat towards the village of Sucha.

7,000 Prisoners
ATHENS, Dec. 4 (UP).—It has been confirmed that prisoners taken by the Greeks up to December 2 is estimated to be 7,000.

It is authoritatively stated that about 1,000 Italians were taken prisoner during the last three days, and that an unusually small number were taken with the occupation of Pogradetz because the Italians had evacuated the previous week.

New Republic?
BELGRADE, Dec. 4 (UP).—An unconfirmed report says that the Greeks have established a new Albania Republic at Koritza.

Greeks Repulsed
STRUGA, Dec. 4 (UP).—Frontier reports say that after stubborn resistance, the Italians, fighting near the village of Malcanal in the Opera mountain sector early this morning repulsed the Greeks who, yesterday and last night, had advanced six miles. Three Greek officers and approximately 100 Greek soldiers were killed or wounded and it is reported that there were heavy Italian casualties.

On the left wing of this area, Greek troops in the Konica sector are advancing northward towards Premeti and progressed a further five miles. They are now only about five miles from Premeti.

In the Opera mountain sector, the Greeks who yesterday occupied the village of Ujinkas, crossed the bridge over the River Devoli after a two-hour fight and occupied the village of Gopesh. Despite a strong Italian defence, four Greek officers and 50 soldiers were killed and 50 wounded. One Italian officer and 40 soldiers were killed and another 30 wounded.

Greeks Close In
ATHENS, Dec. 4 (Reuter).—The net result of Greek operations of the last 30 hours has been to iron out the number of "pockets" and bring the Greek line into a broad egg-shaped curve across southern Albania.

The Greeks all day have closed in relentlessly on Santi Quaranta. North of Argyro-Castron Italian troops today fell back from Premeti towards Kilsura and Tepelini. They were being harried by aircraft while Greek and forces already very near Premeti this morning—continued to move forward.

Italian resistance is also weakening.

Important Moves To Secure U.S. Aid

FROM PAGE ONE

of H. M. Treasury, was arriving to meet Treasury officials.

Simultaneously, Mr. Cordell Hull, Secretary of State, told a press conference that government was giving consideration to all phases of the shipping question in connection with aid for Britain.

Observers had sensed something in yesterday's special conference which brought nine of the most important government officials together. Three similar extraordinary meetings have been called of recent months and it is notable that a major step to aid Britain followed each one.

The first meeting preceded the sale of destroyers, the second preceded facilities for Britain to increase her air force orders by 12,000 planes, and the third preceded the release of Flying Fortresses for sale to Britain.

Financing of Britain
The financing of Britain appeared to be the dominant subject at the latest conference and Sir Frederick's visit here is expected to help clarify the situation. There has been some demand for information on Britain's exact status.

Manufacturers for instance, want to know whether it is financially safe to accept further orders and if the millions they have spent to handle British orders will be repaid.

Another source of concern has been the future of American export trade if British resources are allowed to become exhausted. The British Empire now takes 60 per cent. of United States exports and the sudden and complete collapse of the Empire would be a heavy blow to American national economy.

Kassala Raided
CAIRO, Dec. 4 (Reuter).—Kassala was heavily raided, bombs being dropped on enemy fortified positions and the motor transport park being straddled.

British aircraft also machine-gunned the transport and personnel.

LATE NEWS

Italian Claims
ROME, Dec. 4 (UP).—Italian forces have carried out vigorous counter-attacks on Greek positions after repeated enemy assaults, supported by heavy artillery, while Italian planes carried out violent bombing attacks on the enemy, especially west of Ereske and the ports of Provoka and Saint Maura, to-day's official communique claimed.

The communique said that six enemy planes were brought down in flames over Tirana.

It is also reported that torpedo planes have torpedoed an enemy cruiser while on December 1 an Italian submarine torpedoed an enemy destroyer in the Atlantic.

R.A.F. Successes
CAIRO, Dec. 4 (Reuter).—Further Royal Air Force successes over Albania are announced here.

In addition to two aircraft destroyed by R.A.F. fighters and bomber formations in Albania on Monday, two other enemy aircraft have now been destroyed.

TO-DAY—TO-MORROW—SATURDAY
HERE'S THE MOST DARING ROMANCE EVER SCREENED!
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In her greatest performance as Elizabeth, England's Virgin Queen!

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"PINOCCHIO"

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UNA MERKEL
DOBS WATSON
HENRY TAYLOR
GRANT MITCHELL

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JOAN DAVIS-DANA ANDREWS-MARY NASH
LARRY CRADDE - KATHARINE AIDRIDGE
HARRY SHANNON - WALLY VERNON
A 20th Century-Fox Picture

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Spencer Tracy - Heddy Lamarr
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ITALIANS STUBBORNLY FIGHTING, BUT ARE STILL LOSING GROUND

LONDON, DEC. 4 (UP).—THE "EXCHANGE TELEGRAPH'S" ATHENS CORRESPONDENT SAYS THAT A NEW GREEK VICTORY IS REPORTED THIS MORNING WITH THE OCCUPATION OF THE FOREST OF BOUNA, AND THE DESTRUCTION OF THE SO-CALLED "DEATH BATTALIONS" OF THE FERRARA DIVISION, AFTER AN ALL NIGHT BATTLE IN WHICH THE ITALIANS RESISTED STUBBORNLY.

GERMAN TOWNS BOMBED

R.A.F. Night Raids

LONDON, Dec. 4 (Reuter).—Mannheim and Ludwigshafen which were linked across the Rhine by a most important bridge which was used by rail and foot traffic, were attacked by British bombers on Tuesday night, despite unfavourable weather conditions. In both towns fires and explosions were observed. The R.A.F. also attacked a blast furnace plant at Essen, while other formations bombed Dunkirk, an invasion port. Daytime attacks were made on aerodromes in Germany, occupied northern France yesterday. One British plane is missing. **Slight Enemy Activity** **LONDON, Dec. 4 (Reuter).—**Enemy activity over Britain to-day was very slight. Shortly after mid-day, according to an Air Ministry communique, bombs were dropped on Dover doing some damage but causing few casualties. One enemy bomber was shot down over the Dutch coast by British fighters without loss to themselves. **Last Night's Raids** **LONDON, Dec. 4 (UP).—**At 9.20 p.m. night raiders were reported to be concentrating on a Midlands town. Waves of German bombers flew over a town in the East Midlands in a southerly direction, in the face of fierce anti-aircraft fire. Numerous bombs were dropped at 9 p.m. and caused considerable damage in the London area where gun flashes on the outskirts constantly illuminated the sky. The warning in London was sounded at 6.30 p.m.

JAPANESE AIR SERVICE

SPECIAL TO THE "TELEGRAPH"
HANOI, Dec. 4 (UP).—The first Japanese Airways plane is scheduled to leave Hanoi to-morrow morning, opening a weekly service to Saigon via Tourane.

R.A.F. Aim To Destroy Nazis' War Strength

LONDON, Dec. 4 (Reuter).—If Germany runs short of oil she must stop fighting. It is with this belief uppermost in mind that the R.A.F. have shaped their operations. And the R.A.F. know a trick worth two of bombing oil wells. What this trick is was explained, among other things, by the Minister of Economic Warfare, Mr. Hugh Dalton, at a Press conference to-day. The British blockade, said Mr. Dalton, is working well and the enemy are growing uncomfortably short of certain commodities. Oil, rubber and copper, looted by Germany from occupied territories, are now exhausted, and Germany is back where she was six months ago. The safety margin of oil in Germany has not yet been touched, but she is using more oil than she is producing as a result of R.A.F. attacks on supplies, storage, and the transport system, and the disappointing supplies received from Russia. **Targets Recommended** **He recommended targets in Germany to the Air Ministry and he always kept oil near the head of the list. In Italy, Bari had always been the R.A.F.'s number one target; it is economically more important than**

This has facilitated the Greek advance on Argyro-Castron. In the north, the Greeks have occupied new heights to the north of mount Ostrovita, which is now entirely in Greek hands. On the northern front, the Italian counter-attack near Lake Ochrida was repulsed, and many men were taken prisoners.

PREMIER TO FIND ANSWER TO U-Boat Problem

SPECIAL TO THE "TELEGRAPH"
LONDON, Dec. 4 (UP).—In the House of Commons to-day, Sir John Anderson, Lord President of the Council, said that Mr. Churchill is personally directing the search for an answer to the grave problem resulting from attacks on the overseas supply lines. He said the nation can be confident, as in the world war, that an early and effective solution would be reached. In addition, the Government may have to apply its labour compulsion powers to the industrial centres of construction which were heavily bombed.

Rumania's Oil Control

GOVERNMENT TAKING OVER
SPECIAL TO THE "TELEGRAPH"
BUCHAREST, Dec. 4 (UP).—The Government has issued a decree for taking over all pipelines and their accessories from all the oil companies in Rumania for which they will pay with three per cent. bonds, redeemable in 25 years. It was also decreed that the Government will take over all Jewish shipping, and all ships and barges belonging to Jews or Jewish companies for which the Government will pay with three per cent. bonds redeemable in five years.

Italy Feels Pinch

Italy would feel the pinch even before Germany, said Mr. Dalton, because she had synthetic oil plant and there was little doubt that her supplies were growing short, and she had to get replenishment from Germany. Mr. Dalton would like to see an increasing mobilisation of reserves of United States production set aside for Britain and her Allies, and added there have been exchanges of views with the United States on the matter.

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Britain's Rationing Is Light: Axis Peoples Endure Hardship

"Reuter's" Chief Diplomatic Correspondent
LONDON, Dec. 4 (Reuter).—The decision of Lord Woolton, Minister of Food, to limit quantities of certain rationed foods and to ban entirely the importation of fruit, other than oranges, is the subject for gloating on the part of Italian propaganda services. They interpret these measures in the light of their own situation and experience, and prophesy that Britain will soon be brought to her knees by the attempted blockade vigorously exercised by Germany.

Summary Of War In Air

6,000 Enemies Downed

LONDON, Dec. 4 (Reuter).—In 14 months of the war, Britain and her allies have accounted for over 6,000 enemy planes not including "possibles" or "probables." To date British anti-aircraft gunners have shot down over 400 enemy planes over Britain, 300 by day and over 100 by night. The total number of enemy planes shot down over Britain is now 3,000. This total was reached on Monday when two Messerschmitts were shot down for the loss of only one British fighter, the pilot of which is safe. This total does not include 25 enemy planes destroyed by the Royal Navy and the Fleet Air Arm around our coasts. British losses over Britain total 850 planes or more than a 3-to-1 victory. Better still, 415 pilots were saved by again, a victory of 74-to-1. Hitler's worst months were August when 1,000 enemy planes were brought down, and September when 1,071 German planes were shot out of the sky.

U.S. EVACUATES

SPECIAL TO THE "TELEGRAPH"
HONOLULU, Dec. 4 (UP).—The U.S. Monterey, carrying about 772 passengers, mostly evacuees from the Orient, arrived here via Australia at 12.30 p.m. to-day. About 35 passengers are disembarking here and the remainder will sail for the Pacific coast to-morrow.

They do not realise the very small effect the British system of rationing really has upon the gastronomic life of Britain. Except for butter, sugar, bacon and eggs, which are admittedly scarcer than before the war, the ordinary person has hardly noticed the effect of the food restriction policy.

Full Meals For All

Anybody can get a full meal at any restaurant without ration cards or coupons. Bread is abundant and excellent. Meat, except pork, is limited on the basis of price when bought from the butcher, but in restaurants, meat, as well as other foods, are only limited by the appetite of the consumer. Game and poultry are not rationed at all. There is no lack of potatoes and green vegetables, though onions are scarce. On the other hand there is no TURN to Back Page, Column 4

Central District Killing Drama

Believed by the police to have been murdered, a northern Chinese, Woo Tong-chiu, 28 years of age, was found dead, with his head almost severed and bearing other severe wounds, when police had to force their way into a room at 3, Gilman Street, central district, this morning. Neighbours heard cries of "Save Life" and called the police, who found the door of Woo's room locked on the outside. Upon breaking down the door they discovered Woo's body and also the unconscious form of 19-year-old Wong Shu-kam, who was suffering from wounds. Wong was rushed to the hospital. It has been revealed that the dead man was a clerk in the employ of the Chung Wah Book Company, while the injured man is a coolie.

Important New Moves To Secure U.S. Financial Aid For Britain

Special to the "Telegraph"
WASHINGTON, Dec. 4 (UP).—Mr. Henry Morgenthau, Secretary of the Treasury, to-day announced that Sir Frederick Phillips, Under-Secretary of the British Treasury, will arrive in the United States to report to him regarding British financial conditions. Mr. Morgenthau said the report would be a continuation of the discussions held in Washington last July, when the pair discussed Anglo-American currency relations.

U.S. Denial

WASHINGTON, Dec. 4 (UP).—The report in the New York "Herald-Tribune" stating that the Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, Mr. Marriner Eccles had proposed a loan of \$2,500,000,000 to Britain, with Britain's gold production as security, has been officially denied by Mr. Eccles through an official spokesman.

Aid For Britain

WASHINGTON, Dec. 4 (UP).—The United States is considering the possibility of extending some form of financial aid to Britain because the latter is a "good risk," Mr. Jesse Jones, Secretary for Commerce indicated to-day. He declined to say how or when such aid might be rendered but reiterated his opposition to the repeal of the Johnson Act at this time. He said it is his policy to lend Government funds to good risks "when they need it for proper purposes—and the British say they need money."

Control Of Retail Rice Prices

Govt. Announcement
An official communique issued by the Colonial Secretariat this morning states that it is hoped that the measures for the limitation of retail prices of rice are purely temporary, in view of the attempted raising of the wholesale prices to unwarrantable level by suppliers abroad. With a view to conservation of adequate stocks here the export TURN to Back Page, Column 3

Important New Moves

WASHINGTON, Dec. 4 (Reuter).—Important new American moves to help Britain appeared imminent to-day as the Secretaries of at least three government departments gave indication of further aid being under immediate consideration. Mr. Jesse Jones, Secretary of Commerce and Federal Loan Administrator said that Britain was a "good risk."

Mr. Henry Morgenthau, Secretary of the Treasury revealed that Sir Frederick Phillips, under-Secretary TURN to Back Page, Column 3

LATEST

See Back Page For Further Late News

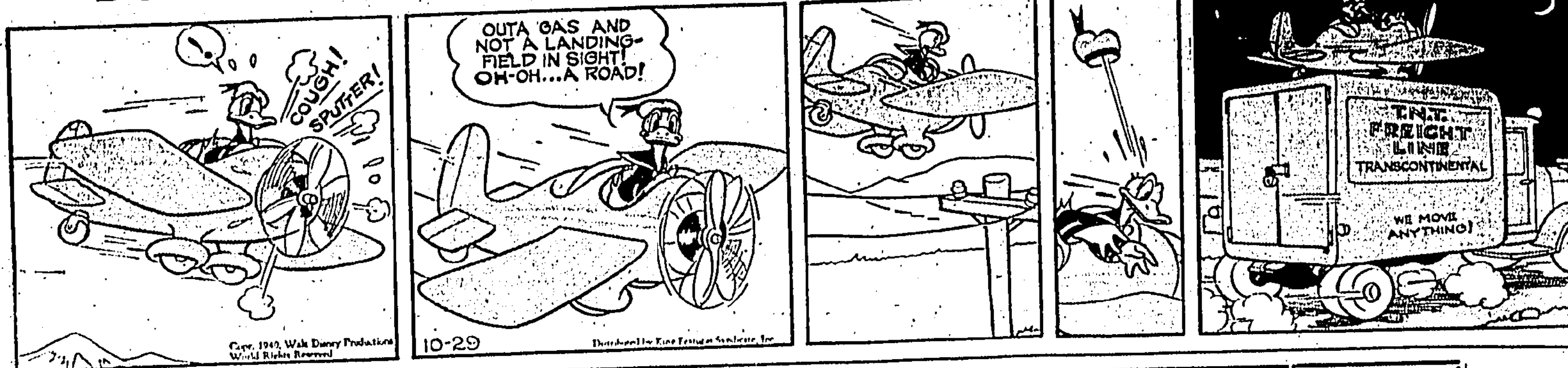
AMERICAN AIRCRAFT SATISFIES

LONDON, Dec. 4 (Reuter).—It is revealed that an American built aircraft took the photographs of the damaged Italian warships at Taranto and the R.A.F. are enthusiastic over the performance the American aircraft they are now using. They have fought their way successfully through many operations, particularly in the Middle East. The R.A.F. have come to regard with real affection the Lockheed Hudsons which are proving such a valuable aid to Britain's Coastal Command and which have taken part in hundreds of bombing raids from Norway to the Bay of Biscay.

Indo-China—Thailand Situation Easier

Special to the "Telegraph"
VICHY, Dec. 4 (UP).—Official quarters here to-day declared there has been no extension of the tension between Thailand and Indo-China. On the contrary, they said, negotiations are proceeding in which the French have high hopes of a friendly settlement without sacrificing their territorial integrity. **Border Reports** **HANOI, Dec. 4 (UP).—**Slackening reports from the Thai border are more an indication of a momentary lull. However, communi-

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MAGAZINE PAGE

Task of the Boy Scout Movement In the War

AT the beginning of the war of 1914-18 the Boy Scout movement was hardly seven years old, a tender age at which to face up to a major crisis in its life; but scouting not only survived but firmly established itself as a vital educational force.

Britain was unprepared for that war but it possessed a striking movement with a motto of "Be Prepared" for any emergency. Let them try their hand! Scout Guards for railways and factories, scout messengers, scout constables, scout bus conductors; and then when air raids came, scout first aid parties and firemen and—best remembered—the "All Clear" boys for use after air raids.

The boys were able to tackle with intelligence and enthusiasm any responsible task allotted to them. Scouting had proved its worth. It had also proved the value of its patrol system (boy leadership) in that it continued to flourish throughout the war despite the fact that the vast majority of its officers had been called to the colours.

In the story of courage and self-sacrifice it is not forgotten that 150,000 members of the movement served in the British Forces, over 10,000 gave their lives and the long list of awards and decorations made to its members was

headed by no fewer than 11 Victoria Crosses, the highest British award for gallantry.

In the years between that struggle and the present one the progress of the movement has been phenomenal. It has spread to every country in the world where democracy rules. The world total of boys and men who have benefited by its training runs into tens of millions and it is true to say that, with its sister organisation, the Girl Guide, it has approached nearer to the true ideal of world brotherhood and peace than any other organisation of its kind.

The outbreak of the present war was a blow to every member of the Scout Movement, not an international one; that is, that after God, a Scout's first duty is to his country. His country's enemies are his enemies.

In September, 1939, the scout movement in Britain was prepared, but it had to face another and even sterner test than in 1914. Most of those picturesque jobs in 1914-18 were now undertaken by the fighting Forces, the Air Raid Precautions Workers, or some other Civil Defence Unit. There was plenty of work for the Scouts to do, but it was rather humdrum stuff—messenger work, collecting waste paper, looking after evacuees—and scores of other most necessary tasks but somewhat lacking in romance and adventure.

The Scouts swallowed their disappointment and tackled all this work whole-heartedly. Those of suitable age with special qualifications have

joined the Air Raid Defence Services or Home Guard and those of military age have joined the Forces by the thousand. Already the Scout casualty list is out of all proportion to the movement's place in the population and the Scout list of awards and decorations grows day by day.

From up and down the country come reports of Commanding Officers seeking out the old Scouts in their units for responsible jobs, and tributes by the score from all the Services to the value of Scout-trained men.

Despite the value of scout training in time of war, scouting is a movement for peace; for producing men of character, capable of constructive work for the betterment of the world and the movement in Britain to-day is, in addition to its war-time activities, pursuing its normal training as far as it possibly can, certain that when victory is won it will have a major part to play in the great reconstruction.

Although to-day scouting is a world-wide movement one must still, with the exception of the U.S.A., go to Britain and the British Empire to see it flourish in that perfect freedom and liberty of action so essential to its full success. In Great Britain it threw over the chance of any political bias when it rejected a government maintenance grant in its early days with the result that to-day it receives the blessing and support of all the major political parties.



Some Hongkong Scouts.

On the religious side its freedom is even more noticeable, and members of all churches find no difficulty in enjoying full membership of the movement while at the same time preserving their own individuality.

In Great Britain the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster, the Moderator of the Free Churches, the Moderator of the Church of Scotland and the Chief Rabbi are all members of the Council of the Boy Scouts Association, and from the very commencement of scouting these leaders have been consulted at every step in the development of the religious policy of the movement.

The result has been that each denomination has been

content for its members to work in full co-operation with the main organisation, the Boy Scouts Association, and there is complete confidence on all sides. Various churches have unofficial guilds to further the cause of scouting among their own members and these guilds act in an advisory capacity to the Boy Scouts Association.

This ability to overcome social and religious barriers is not the only reason why so many people are looking to the scout movement to help in the problems of the future.

It is, in addition, a movement which has overcome the barrier of all colour and class. It has established effective training for the whole of youth from eight to 30 years of age and it has an effective, system for training its own leaders.

ADOPTING PRISONERS OF WAR

It costs £26 to "adopt" a British prisoner of war. But, if this is too much to pay all at once, you can send a weekly or monthly subscription to the British Red Cross Society.

"Subscriptions may be as low as sixpence a week, but they must be paid regularly," Lady Winifred Gore, of the Society's prisoners of war department, told a reporter in London recently.

"On receipt of the first payment we select a suitable prisoner—in the majority of cases a man from the ranks—and send his name and address to the subscriber.

"We also let the prisoner have the name and address of his benefactor, so they can correspond whenever possible."

Food and Tobacco

This scheme has appealed particularly to lonely and elderly people, and also to the very young. Several hundreds of "adoptions" have already been arranged.

Members of the National Spinners' Pensions Association have collected sufficient money to "adopt" more than 20 prisoners.

The £20 covers the cost of a weekly parcel of food, soap, cigarettes and tobacco.

An Answer To Brother-in-Law - Who Knows Everything

One afternoon Smith heard a call for help from his neighbour Jones. Rushing over, he found Jones in the front yard, struggling with a horse. "Lend a hand," said Jones, "I want to get him up on the porch." Smith was a kindly man, and full of curiosity, so he lent a hand.

When the horse was safely on the porch, Jones said: "Hold the door for me; I want to get him into the house." When the horse was in the hall Jones ordered, "You push while I pull. I want to get him up the stairs." They heaved and hauled and the horse whinnied and stumbled, but they got him up.

"My!" panted Jones, "I didn't think we'd make it."

Then he led the horse into the bathroom, and pointed to the bathtub. "In he goes." With toil and trouble and infinite ingenuity they got the horse into the tub.

"And now," asked Smith, "will you please tell me what it's all about?"

"Well, you see," answered Jones, "I have a brother-in-law who thinks he knows everything. He knows all the answers. And it makes me tired. So when he comes here to-night he'll go to the bath-room and see the horse in the bathtub and come rushing out and yell, 'Great guns, Bill, there's a horse in the bathtub!' and I'll just say, 'Well, what of it!' and let him worry."

FUNNY SIDE UP

By Abner Dean



"I can't decide who to vote for... but maybe it will come to me in a flash!"

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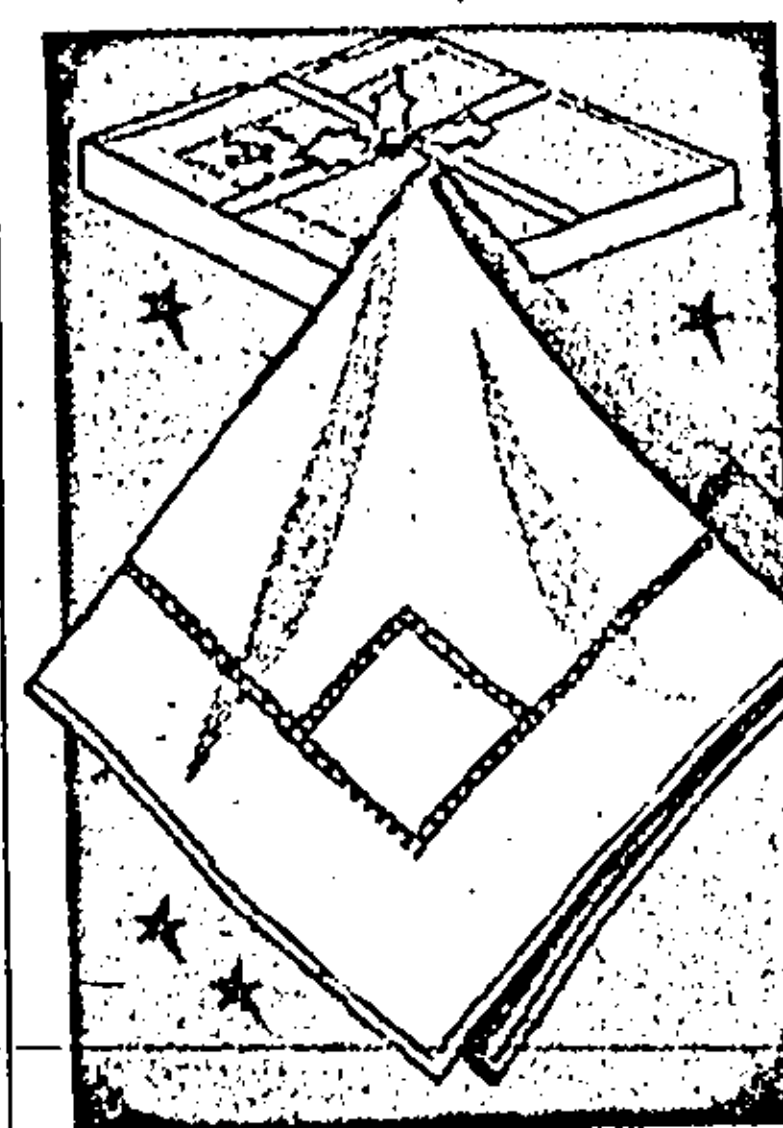


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SYDNEY & MELBOURNE via Manila.

Atuta Maru Saturday, 28th Dec.

BOMBAY via Singapore & Colombo.

Okita Maru Friday, 6th Dec.

Onoe Maru Wednesday, 11th Dec.

RANGOON & CALCUTTA via Singapore.

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The Hongkong Telegraph.

Thursday, December 5, 1940.
Wyndham St., Hongkong
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HONGKONG'S RICE

THERE are indications that a first-class price-protesting ramp is in progress concerning the Colony's rice. On Monday the "Telegraph" revealed that the prices of Hongkong's three grades of rice had increased by three dollars in the course of a few days. Yesterday retail prices showed another substantial advance.

It appears that those in the position to control the market need only the flimsiest, and quite often unwarrantable excuse for forcing up prices. On Monday it was declared that reports of the border trouble in Indo-China had frightened them into price-raising, which merely means that they were provided with a cheap excuse for exploitation. It is true that Hongkong depends very largely on Indo-China for its supplies of rice, but as the situation concerning the importation of rice from that country has remained unchanged for some time past, the argument that Monday's reports of border strife could affect the position sufficiently to warrant such big price increases is unconvincing.

It is not suggested that Hongkong is able to import all the rice she would like for current needs, but equally true is it that no shortage exists. Rice is the Colony's most important commodity, and a daily necessity for more than nine-tenths of the population. It is, therefore, of the utmost importance that rice should be made available at prices which the poorer classes of Chinese can afford. It is consoling to know that Government is tackling the problem with vigour; it needs to be. Official price controlling is not always a satisfactory solution, but if the authorities can work out a scheme which keeps the price of rice within the pockets of those who cannot even afford anything else, and at the same time prevents vital reserve stocks from being depleted, it will have accomplished an excellent piece of work. If the Chinese population could overcome their prejudices against unpolished rice, which actually contains more nutriment than the polished commodity, and at least use it in judicious mixture with the white rice, they would make a big contribution to this end.

THE SUEZ CANAL— TO-DAY & YESTERDAY

The Suez Canal, once scorned as "a ditch in the desert", is the most strategically important waterway in the world. It links Eastern and Western civilisation socially, politically, and economically.

The project to cut a waterway linking up the Mediterranean with the Red Sea was in the mind of ancient traders long before the time of Christ, but the venture never materialised for the obvious reason that engineering skill essential for such a colossal enterprise was non-existent in the days of ancient mariners.

Nevertheless, the practical necessity of a waterway linking up the merchandise of the East with the Mediterranean countries grew with the coming of civilisation. Mechanised transport, fast replacing the sailing clipper in the Eastern trade, cutting down the voyage by many weeks, re-inspired owners of steam ships still further to economise fuel and time in the voyages out East. Interest revived for economic reasons in the ancient idea of cutting a waterway from the Mediterranean to the Red Sea, and eventually a Frenchman possessing vision sought financial influence to undertake the enterprise.

★

In 1859 the idea to cut a waterway through the Isthmus of Suez to connect the Mediterranean with the Red Sea, was conceived by the French engineer, Ferdinand de Lesseps. The majority of sailors to-day call it the "Frenchman's Ditch." It is about 101 miles long, of which 21 miles are in Lakes Bala and Timsah, and the Bitter Lakes, with the width varying from 150 ft. to 400 ft., and an approximate depth varying from 33 ft. to 40 ft. It took ten years to build and was opened for transport in 1869. The total cost of the work was £16,000,000, and so little faith was displayed in the project that de Lesseps had eventually

to raise the money through issuing lotteries.

The British Government at first refused to take the scheme seriously, many statesmen believing it impossible to excavate a channel in the sand deep enough for large ships to pass through, but the far-sighted Prime Minister Disraeli, after a great struggle in Parliament and with the Bank of England, succeeded in subscribing £4,080,000 and obtaining 44 per cent. of the Suez Canal Company's shares. When these shares were first put on the market in Great Britain there was not a single application on the Stock Exchange.

To-day it is impossible to think of trade with the East without the Suez Canal which reduces a voyage of 11,200 miles, (if taken around the Cape), to 6,300 miles with the consequent saving of time and fuel.

Towards the upkeep of the Canal, and for interest on share capital, tolls are levied on every ship passing through the Canal whether loaded or empty. In stance a 5,000-ton cargo carrier would have to pay about

£700 loaded for a return journey through the Canal. Liners carrying passengers pay approximately 1/9d per head. The Company considers the percentage charged in dues is small when compared with the value of the cargo.

It must always be remembered that the initial building of the Suez Canal is one of the world's great romances of individual enterprise, and was fostered by two nations, France and England, with the former owning the major share and being charged with the construction of the Canal under de Lesseps.

To-day the Canal is completely under British and Egyptian military control, while the British Navy guards both ends of the waterway, in a position, in fact, to say which ship shall use the canal and which shall not.

The fact that the Canal is under French management has so far made no difference to the actual situation. The French staff had proved entirely loyal in its co-operation with the British military authorities. Even if, under German or Ita-

lian pressure, they ceased to be so, it would make no difference.

Should the Germans seize the company's funds and stocks in Paris, it would not affect the situation. The Canal continues to carry frequent British cargoes to the Near East and everything is normal save the fact that fewer vessels use the waterway and none of them German or Italian.

Greek and Yugoslav traffic, has, however, recently increased. Greek trade with Red Sea ports and Indian Ocean ports is reported booming.

Italy's position, now she has entered the war, has changed to her obvious disadvantage; she is debarred from using the Canal and is unable to reach her Abyssinian Empire. The Cape of Good Hope route is also closed to her by British command of the seas.

★

The Suez Canal enterprise has been successful from its inception, and in the last thirty years it has made amazing profits; besides increasing twenty-fold the exchange of goods and services between the East and West, it has also brought vast sums to its shareholders. The original shares normally carry 200 per cent. interest, and a more recent issue carries 20 per cent. interest. A year's working of the Canal earns profits running into millions. Already the British share of interest since its opening amounts to approximately £45,000,000.

In a year of peace 6,000 ships use the Canal. The passage takes about 18 hours at a speed of between 8 and 10 knots. Powerful electric reflectors enable ships to travel by night. Great Britain's ships make most use of the Canal, taking nearly half of the 30,000,000 tons of shipping using the Canal in an average year. In order of tonnage in normal times the other nations were Germany, Holland, France, Italy and Japan, whilst the smaller nations aggregated about a tenth of the total tonnage.

BY
**ARTHUR
LAMBLEY**

Paris Is Now A City Of Empty Shops And German Refugees

From A Correspondent.

Writing from Lisbon

This picture of Paris under the German heel was given me by a Frenchman recently arrived from occupied France.

French citizens seeking to pass to the unoccupied zone, he said, have to go through an almost endless series of formalities before they get a permit which takes them only to Vichy. They are allowed to take just sufficient funds to do this.

At Vichy there is a similar inquisition before they are allowed an exit permit and only enough money to take them to their destination.

The old life of Paris is ended, in spite of measures taken by the Germans to give the impression that it still goes on.

The Nazis have ordered all shops, commercial establish-

ments, hotels, cafes to remain open, although most shop-owners have tried to persuade their conquerors that since they have nothing to sell they had better remain closed.

Cabarets must also be open, although when this order was first given serious troubles arose between Frenchmen and Germans over cabaret girls. Then the Germans decided that the Frenchmen should be barred from all but three small cabarets.

Frenchwomen are allowed everywhere. The Germans are extremely polite to everybody.

A typical case of the spirit of an old Frenchwoman was shown recently when a number of shop girls were met by German officers and asked to pose for a photograph. When they were all smiles the old woman walked up and told them they ought to be ashamed to talk in the streets with such people. The

girls walked off and left the officers flat.

German officers and soldiers may be seen in groups of eight or ten, carrying cameras and field-glasses, walking the streets. There is practically no traffic, for there is no petrol. The exception is a few official cars.

The French walk as though they were carrying a heavy burden. The boulevardiers are no more.

But the German idea is still to make Paris look as if it was the Paris of old, to give a good impression to the thousands of refugees from the Rhineland and North-West Germany who have gone to Paris to escape the British bombing.

One German to whom my informant talked said life in Germany was absolutely unbearable. The people could not get any sleep.

The refugee problem was becoming every day more serious, and to deal with it the German authorities had special offices in centres where the British bombing was considered too heavy.

GREATER WAR EFFORT URGED IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON, Dec. 4 (British Wireless).—The House of Commons resuming the debate, heard a series of speeches from back-benchers almost all devoted to urging upon the Government more drastic action to mobilise the entire resources of the country for victory.

Earl Winterton expressed disappointment at what he considered the failure of government spokesmen to give a convincing answer to criticisms voiced earlier in the debate.

There was a general desire, he said, to see Britain take the offensive in the field but the real offensive must first take place in factories and shipyards. He urged also the vital importance of harnessing the resources of India and Africa to provide supplies for the Middle East campaign. At home he advocated compulsory measures for control of resources and the transference and training of manpower.

Mr. Seymour Coombs (Lab.) agreed that on the home front they must strip to the waist for victory. He echoed a demand frequently heard in the course of the debate for constant and vigorous attack against Italy.

Since The Crusades

Mr. Buchanan, one of the three I.L.P. members, the only group in the House not giving unreserved support to the war effort, expressed the view that a military victory by Germany was impossible and it was also impossible by Britain. He said that the sooner there was negotiated a peace, the happier he, as a pacifist, would be.

Mr. Vernon Bartlett (Ind.) said there had never been a war since the Crusades in which the moral factors were so much on one side and the material factors were on the other. He stressed the importance of the allies making sure that they secured the support to which they entitled them by a clear declaration of war aims.

Sir J. Wardlaw Milne (Con.) was not satisfied that the full industrial strength of the country was yet being thrown into the struggle. Speaking for the Government in the course of the debate, the Lord President of the Council, Sir John Anderson, warned Members against seeking immediate results at the expense of the systematic development of productive capacity by which the full weight of Britain's effort would in due time be brought to bear crushingly on the enemy.

Taking up Earl Winterton's point, he called attention to the recent successful conference of the eastern group at Delhi. Recommendations had just become available to Government which would come to a decision with the least possible delay.

Fighting In N. Kiangsu

Belated Reports from Front

CHUNGKING, Dec. 5 (Central News).—Fighting has flared up again in north Kiangsu. Japanese troops based at Hwaian pushed south while those based at Paoying drove north. They met with strong Chinese resistance.

Japanese sailing out from Kaoyu in steam and wooden boats were attacked by the Chinese. Three steam boats and several wooden boats were sunk. The Japanese returned to Kaoyu.

Chinese troops unleashed a vigorous attack on the south bank at Ichang, upper Yangtze port in Hupoh, on November 30, exacting a heavy toll of lives.

On the same day several Chinese columns launched simultaneous attacks at Tachai in the Ichang sector. Breaking through barbed-wire entanglements, they engaged in hand-to-hand fighting.

On the north Yangtze bank Chinese troops made an attack at Nantankwan under a protective barrage early in the morning of December 1.

Japanese troops marching from Wuhsih in the southern suburbs of Tungchong in south Hupoh, into Tancheng, were intercepted on December 1.

Japanese artillery on the north bank of the Sinsiang River in north Hunan shelled the Chinese positions. Chinese guns replied and destroyed a Japanese observation post.

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JAPANESE POLICY ANALYSED

Present Incidents and D.E.I.

CHUNGKING, Dec. 5 (Reuter).—The outbreak of fighting between Indo-China and Thailand shows that Japan is determined to proceed with her southward expansion programme, declares the "Central Daily News."

"It is particularly noteworthy that Thailand is resorting to armed force after the suspension of negotiations in Batavia between Japan and the Netherlands East Indies."

"Japan is making use of Thailand to pave the way to complete occupation of Indo-China as a base for her southward expansion. Meanwhile, if the Netherlands East Indies refuse to come to terms Japan will take armed action against them."

"It is reported that as a result of negotiations between Vichy and Tokyo, Japan has already secured the French Government's agreement to the establishment of air bases at Saigon."

The newspaper is convinced that there is an "intimate connection between the clash of Indo-China and Thailand and the situation in the Netherlands East Indies. In other words, Japan is now on the eve of her southward expansion. At the same time we believe that if the United States has a firm determination to check Japan, she can do so before the situation gets out of hand."

EFFECTIVE BRITISH BLOCKADE

Chinese Comment

CHUNGKING, Dec. 5 (Reuter).—The chances of Germany breaking through the British blockade are very slight, declares the official "Central Daily News" leading article.

"During the last European war before the entry of the United States, Germany controlled more territory in Europe than she does now. On the land Germany's only outlet will be to push through the Balkans."

"It is true that British shipping losses today are extremely serious but Britain can purchase ships from America and her own construction must be considerable. We cannot say that it is impossible for Germany to break through the British but the chances must be very slight indeed."

No Truce For Christmas

SPECIAL TO THE "TELEGRAPH". LONDON, Dec. 4 (UP).—There is no chance of a Christmas truce, according to authoritative sources here to-day. They pointed out that sea mines and time bombs cannot be prevented from exploding.

Berlin Statement. BERLIN, Dec. 4 (UP).—"In view of Churchill's rejection of the truce proposals, any statement would be superfluous," authorised quarters here stated to-day.

RICE PAYMENTS FOR LAND TAX

Plan For Next Year. CHUNGKING, Dec. 4 (Reuter).—The collection of the land tax in rice instead of cash is expected to be enforced next year according to the official "Central Daily News."

The proposal "to states" was adopted in principle at the July meeting of the Supreme National Defence Council while the details were approved at the meeting of the Executive Yuan on November 13 and the Ministry of Finance then decided that the Land Tax for 1941 should be collected in rice.

The Chinese newspaper estimates the total national land tax, including Japanese occupied areas, at about 200 million dollars. According to the 1925 budget, the land tax totalled 90 million taels or one-fifth of the national revenue.

Predicts U.S. Will Enter The War

SPECIAL TO THE "TELEGRAPH". SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 4 (UP).—"There is no doubt" that the United States will enter the war because "those in command are perfectly made to be 'in the game'," declared Senator Hiram Johnson to-day.

He added that any repeal of the Johnson Act would result in "great blackening" between the two nations when peace comes.

More Laid Up Ships May Be Released

LONDON, Dec. 4 (Reuter).—An unconfirmed report says that the United States will shortly release thousands of tons of Merchant shipping to Britain and the United States Maritime Commission which yesterday authorised the Black Diamond S.S. Company to sell to Britain four cargo ships, is expected to offer 15 more laid up ships in a few days.

Germany Tightens Her Hold On Rumania

Special to the "Telegraph"

BERLIN, Dec. 4 (UP).—The official news agency reports that Germany has signed a new agreement regarding German-Rumanian co-operation for carrying out an economic ten year plan for Rumania.

The new agreement protocol calls for the following terms:— 1.—The granting of long term credits to Rumania by Germany. 2.—The intensification of co-

Exchange At A Glance

SELLING	
T.T. London	1/2 3/4
Demand London	1/2 3/4
T.T. Shanghai	380
T.T. Singapore	52 1/2
T.T. Japan	100
T.T. India	82 1/4
T.T. U.S.A.	23 1/4
T.T. Manila	40 1/4
T.T. Batavia	43 1/4
T.T. Bangkok	148 1/4
T.T. Saigon	101
T.T. France	Nom.
T.T. Switzerland	89
T.T. Australia	1/6 1/4
BUYING	
4 m/s L/C London	1/3 1/4
4 m/s D/P London	1/3 1/4
4 m/s L/C U.S.A.	24 1/4
4 m/s France	Nom.
30 d/s India	84 1/4
U.S. Cross rate in London	4.02 1/4
U.S. Cross rate in N.Y.	4.03 1/4

H.K. Stock Market

The following quotations were issued on the Hongkong Stock Market this morning.

BANKS	
H.K. Banks	1.275 b.
H.K. Banks	72 n.
H.K. Banks (H.K.)	70 n.
Chartered	7 1/2 n.
Mercantile, A. & B.	25 1/4 n.
Mercantile, C.	10 1/4 n.
East Asia	173 n.
INSURANCES	
Caution	185 b.
Union	319 sa.
China Underwriters	1 n.
H.K. Fire	150 n.
SHIPPING	
Douglas	135 n.
Steamboats	11 n.
Indo-China P.	100 n.
Indo-China D.	80 n.
Shell (Bearers) s/-	33 1/2 n.
Waterboats	7 n.
DOCKS ETC.	
Wharves	80 1/4 n.
Docks (old)	17.10 b.
Docks (new)	16 1/4 b.
Providents	5.10/25 sa.
Shai Dockyards	31 1/4 n.
MINING	
Kailan	16/3 n.
Rauhs	9/4 n.
H.K. Mines	1 1/4 cts. n.
LANDS	
Hotels	3 1/4 n.
Lands	31 1/4 b.
Lands 4% Debentures	100 n.
Shai Lands Sh	11 1/2 n.
Humphreys	7.20 n.
H.K. Realities	3 1/4 b.
Chinese Estates	100 n.
UTILITIES	
Trams	17 1/4 s.
Peak Trams (old)	7.40 n.
Peak Trams (new)	3.70 n.
Star Ferries	53 n.
Y. Ferries	22 1/2 b.
China Lights (old) s. c. d.	7.10 b.
China Lights (new) s. c. d.	6.70 b.
H.K. Electric (old)	38 1/4 b.
H.K. Electric (new)	33 b.
Macao Electric (old)	17 1/4 n.
Macao Electric (new)	16 1/4 n.
Sandakan Lights	11 1/2 s.
Telephones (old)	24 1/2 b.
Telephones (new)	10 b. & sa.
INDUSTRIALS	
Caid. Macg. (Ord.) Sh.	14.80 n.
Caid. Macg. (Pref.) Sh.	12 n.
Canton Iron	1 n.
Cements	17 1/2 3/4 sa.
H.K. Ropes	6.80 b.
STORES, &c.	
Dairy Farms	18 1/4 b.
Watsons	10.20 b.
Lane Crawford	9 n.
Sinceres	2.15 n.
Wing On (H.K.)	39 n.
Powell	1.00 b.
COTTON MILLS	
Ewo Sh.	38 1/4 n.
Shai Cotton Sh.	165 n.
MISC.	
H.K. Govt. 4%	98 n.
H.K. Govt. 3 1/2% (1034)	94 n.
H.K. Govt. 3 1/2% (1040)	94 n.
Ch. Govt. 5% 1925 GSBds.	35 n.
H.K. Entertainments	6.65 b.
Constructions (old)	1.00 b.
Constructions (new)	1 n.
Vibro Piling	7.80 n.
Marsmans Inv. (Lon.) s/-	7/8 n.
Marsmans Inv. (H.K.) s/-	2/8 n.

China Repays Her Credits. WASHINGTON, Dec. 4 (UP).—China has repaid over \$5,000,000 from the \$20,000,000 borrowed from the United States, the payments being made mostly in tung oil, Mr. Jesse Jones, Secretary of Commerce revealed to-day.

He added that several hundred thousand dollars of the repayment consisted of tin shipments, and remarked: "China must hurry her mining."

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operation in the development of agriculture and forests for which Germany will increase shipments of machinery and materials. 3.—Technical and financial aid to Rumanian industry.

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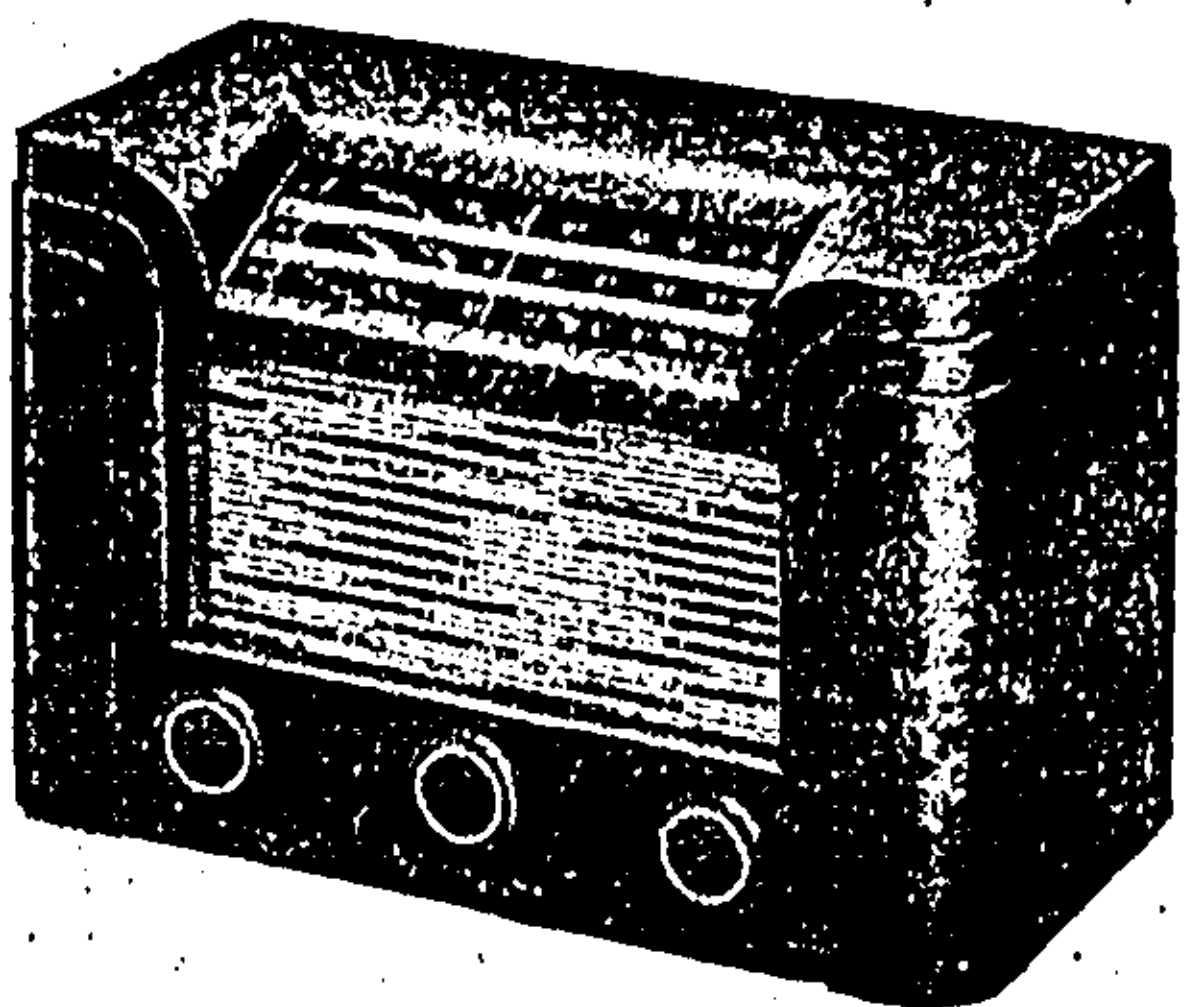
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"Pilgrim's" Hockey Notes

FIELDING, TRAPPING AND SHOOTING

Further Factors That Contribute To Victory

FIELDING THE BALL cleanly with one hand is an important phase in the game of hockey. It goes for smartness and speed, for a ball so swiftly and securely stopped means seconds saved in a speedy attack.

Trapping the ball with the stick is a second such phase, and in preparing to stop the ball with the stick, the handle should not be gripped tightly. A rigid stick makes for a rebound that may send the ball to one's opponent.

Before touching upon shooting, there is another important duty that is imposed on forwards, and that is their duty to assist the half-backs, especially when being over-played by their opponents. The inside forwards, as in soccer, usually undertake the work in this direction, for the wingers and centre-forward must remain up field in case the ball is sent out. Tackling back means that when the halves are being harassed too much, the inside forwards drop back to their assistance.

SHOOTING

MUCH attention should be paid to shooting practice. The "speed-at-any-price" shot at goal is not the most valuable. Directional shooting is of vital importance, for accuracy is essential to success. And in this there are important maxims to be observed. These are:

- (a) Keep the eye on the ball.
- (b) Get the full play of the wrists when striking the ball.
- (c) Grip the stick firmly with both hands.
- (d) Follow through.
- (e) Never hesitate, but shoot first time if possible.
- (f) Never show the goal-keeper where the shot is going by looking in that direction.

THE "PLACED" GOAL

BY means of a rapid stick shot, this is often more effective than the hardest of drives at goal is not the most valuable. Directional shooting is of vital importance, for accuracy is essential to success. And in this there are important maxims to be observed. These are:

DASHING FORWARDS
DASH in a forward must not be mistaken for wild hitting and rushing around. Display energetic initiative when a gap is seen. The quicker the movements are made, the less time there is for the defence to recover from awkward positions. But above all, retain position so that one's team-mate may know that a pass is reasonably certain of finding one there to receive.

"Y" Beat R.A.F. At Billiards

The European Y.M.C.A. and the R.A.F. played a friendly billiards match on Tuesday, the former winning by 499 to 326. Scores: W. O. Williams (R.A.F.) beat W. Kemp 100-0; Cpl. Edwards (R.A.F.) lost to Terran 51-100; P. Altman (R.A.F.) lost to F. Bykes 43-100; Cpl. Smith (R.A.F.) lost to C. Taylor (Champion) 13-100; and L. C. Taylor (R.A.F.) lost to E. De Coster 28-100.



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Random Jottings

Regrettable Incident

A REGRETTABLE INCIDENT occurred during the week-end, when, during a League match the umpire ordered a player off the field. The person involved was Freddie Fowler of the C.B.A., and the umpire was justified in his action.

From a spectator's point of view, the umpiring was not what it should have been, and I must admit that both teams suffered accordingly, but there was no reason whatever for Fowler's remarks.

Players should be able to "take it". Whether his Club will take any action, I don't know, but I am sure the Umpires' Association will look into the matter.

It is true that the C.B.A. left-winger is new to the game, but being a well-seasoned footballer and trained to discipline, he should have known better.

I hope the Association will not act in too drastic a manner.

I WAS approached by several players after a game last Sunday, and objection was raised to certain umpires officiating at particular League fixtures. There is no rule where teams are allowed to object to officials nominated by the Umpires' Association, but I would advise the teams concerned that should they imagine that certain umpires are liable to be biased, a letter to the Secretary would clarify the situation.

RUMOUR has it that there will be no International Tournament or Interport fixture this season. I don't see why there should not be. Although the Services will be unable to make the trip to Macao, there is no reason why the Civilians should not be capable of representing the Colony.

In our annual Services v. Civilians fixtures, the latter have on many occasions defeated the former and I am positive that our Civilians are quite capable of giving our Portuguese rivals a good game, and would probably return victorious. Incidentally, there is a good idea for raising funds for the War Effort. The semi-finals and final games of the International Tournament could be played on the Club ground on consecutive Sundays, and together with the Services v. Civilians match, a charge could be made for entrance. These games are bound to attract a lot of attention, and a decent sum could be collected.

R. MARQUES, popular Recreio right-half, has not been seen in action this year as he has wrenched his shoulder through playing badminton. He has been advised to take a complete rest from sport.

Yesterday's Rugger Cancelled

The rugger match between Club A and Army was not played yesterday owing to the non-arrival of the Army team.

GOLF COURSE IN MACAO

Double Attraction At Racecourse This Week-End

(By "Tinker")

TENNIS CIVIL, one of the foremost sporting Club's in Macao, have finally realised one of their ambitions, and on Saturday are opening their Golf Course at Areia Preta. The project had been under consideration for some time before all difficulties were overcome.

For the grand opening, two of the Country Club players, Messrs. F. E. D'Almada Remedios and A. A. Lopes, are to play a fourball with Messrs. E. Wagner and P. A. Ortiz, and this game takes place on Saturday afternoon.

The week-end, therefore, at Macao will be a sporting one, for on Sunday, the Macao Jockey Club hold their December Race Meeting. The golf course, incidentally, is situated like that at Happy Valley, in the centre of the race track, and is of nine holes. Greens are of grass, though, I understand, not yet of perfect smoothness.

First knowledge I had that the planned course was almost ready was early this week when a chance visitor from Macao showed me a blistered thumb! Enthusiasm, he told me, is running high.

Commenting on the greens, this keen beginner said that they were not yet perfect but ideal for golf. "It is," he said, "more fun to put and not know where the ball is going!"

FIRST ROUND MATCHES IN LARGE UNITS TOURNAMENT

First round matches in the Area Large Units Hockey Tournament were played yesterday and resulted as follows:

M'sex	4 R.E.	1
5th A.A.	1 Punjabs	1
Comb. Small	1 R. Scots	1
Units	2 8th R.A.	1
12th R.A.		

Badminton

LEAGUE FIXTURES

The Hongkong Badminton League will commence next Monday, and the following is the complete list of fixtures for the season:

"A" DIVISION
December 9—University "B" v. Recreio.
December 16—Chinese v. v. University "A".
December 23—University "B" v. Chinese
January 6—Recreio v. University "A".
January 13—University "A" v. University "B".
January 20—Recreio v. University "B".
January 27—University "A" v. Chinese
February 3—University "A" v. Chinese
February 10—Chinese v. v. University "B".
February 17—University "A" v. Recreio.
February 24—University "B" v. University "A".
February 28—Chinese v. v. University "A".

"B" DIVISION
December 11—V.R.C. v. King's College, Chung Wah v. Recreio, K.C.C. v. Police, Kowloon v. Chinese v. v. University "A".
December 18—J.R.C. v. King's College, V.R.C. v. Chung Wah, St. John's v. Police, K.C.C. v. Kowloon Tong.
January 9—Recreio v. J.R.C., King's College v. Chung Wah, St. John's v. St. Andrews, Police v. Kowloon Tong.
January 16—J.R.C. v. Chung Wah, Recreio v. St. Andrews v. K.C.C.
January 23—J.R.C. v. V.R.C., Recreio v. King's College, St. John's v. K.C.C., St. Andrews v. Police.
February 6—King's College v. V.R.C., Recreio v. Chung Wah, Police v. K.C.C., St. Andrews v. Kowloon Tong.
February 13—King's College v. J.R.C., Chung Wah v. V.R.C., Police v. St. John's, Kowloon Tong v. St. Andrews.
February 20—J.R.C. v. Recreio, Chung Wah v. King's College, St. Andrews v. V.R.C. v. Recreio, St. John's v. Police, K.C.C. v. St. Andrews.
March 5—V.R.C. v. J.R.C., King's College v. Recreio, K.C.C. v. St. John's, Police v. St. Andrews.
The "B" Division is divided into two sections, and the first two matches on each of the above dates are in the "A" section, and the last two in "B".

Exhibition Badminton At Chinese Y.M.C.A.

Exhibition badminton matches will be played at the Chinese Y.M.C.A., Bridges Street, this evening at 8.30 p.m. between P. H. Wong, Colony champion, and C. Au, co-doubles champion.

The arrangements are in an effort to stimulate interest in the Chinese "Y" for the coming season. Spectators are assured of an excellent spectacle, these two players being the foremost in the Colony.

TOURNAMENT GAMES

F. Fowler Ordered Off The Field

Recreio 4 C.B.A. 1

ON THEIR HOME GROUND, at King's Park last Sunday, the C.B.A. suffered another reverse—their third in the League—at the hands of Recreio, being well-beaten 4 goals to 1.

After 20 minutes of end-to-end play, Fonseca set the Recs. on their winning way when he received a pass from Soares to score the first goal. In less than ten minutes, Soares added the second from a pass by B. Gosano.

The Portuguese forwards were in great form, and the home defence had to produce their best to keep them at bay until the interval arrived.

RECREIO WELL ON TOP

IN the second half, Recs. were faster in every department. Lockhart was called upon to make an early clearance, but in doing so fell on the ball. He was not penalised, however, and on recovering, Fonseca nipped in to push the ball past the goal-line for the third goal.

Following this, B. Gosano broke through on the left to increase the lead with a brilliant reverse stick shot—it was the best goal of the match, and had the C.B.A. keeper beaten all the way.

At this moment, C.B.A. seemed hopelessly outclassed, but in a desperate raid on the left wing, D. Smith reduced the lead with a rising shot.

Five minutes from the end, F. Fowler received marching orders. A nasty remark was passed at the Umpire, and the latter had no alternative but to order the left-winger from the field.

C.B.A. fought gallantly, but were no match for Recreio, who had no weak link. The home backs could not cope with the fast-moving front line of Fonseca, B. Gosano and F. X. Sequiera.

On the other hand, the slow methods of the home attack, in which Woolgar and E. Fowler did much to pattern, against forceful halves got them nowhere. N. Whitley and Ure were the best halves on view.

In anticipation and intelligent interception, W. A. Reed and Tony Alves took all the sting out of the opposing attack, and "Doc" E. L. Gosano, with his famous "panama" was a stumbling block at left back. H. F. Gonsalves in goal gave a fine display in the first half.

The umpiring throughout could have been better!

Army Rugby XV

The Army will be represented by the following in their rugby match against the Police in the Quadrangular Tournament at Sookpung on Saturday: A. N. Other; Richards; Capt. Douglas; Lieut. Coombes; McDonald; Capt. Hook; 2/Lieut. Wedderburn; Sutherland; 2/Lieut. Ford; 2/Lieut. Bompa; 2/Lieut. Heath; Capt. Duke; Gillan; 2/Lieut. Millar; 2/Lieut. Pinkerton; Reserves, 2/Lieut. Clague, Capt. Skipling, Berry and Foley.

Sappers Still In Winning Vein

R.E.'s 2 A.N. Other XI 1

ON THE CLUB GROUND last Sunday morning, Sappers had a big struggle to defeat A.N. Other XI. Two good goals were scored by Denyer and Homburg within ten minutes of the start, and if the Others had taken their chances in the first half, these two goals would not have been sufficient to give the visitors victory.

Others approached brilliantly and their defensive work was good, but it was in finishing that they failed. Many good scoring chances were thrown away. Hitchcock, however, found the mark to score the only goal for his side.

The second half proved very even with both sides failing to score. Both defences held their own. Youriff and Gunner, the Others' backs, were veritable fortresses, and it was not surprising that the fast Engineers' forwards failed to score. McAllan was a tower of strength, and played a really fine game at centre-half.

FORWARDS IN FORM
The Sappers, the forwards showed good form, especially Denyer at inside right, and Homburg at centre. Bowling was a hard-working right half, and Taylor, behind him, was always steady. Croston was out of place at left back, and although "he did" quite well, there is no getting away from the fact that he is a much better pivot than Marriott.

I was specially glad to see Shaw resume his place—with a bandaged knee—at left-inner, but he is not showing the form of last year.

Sappers will have to field their best team against Police "A" next Sunday if they hope to win.

Kowloon C. C. Teams For The Week-end

The following teams will represent the K.C.C. in friendly cricket matches against the Civil Service on Saturday:

1st XI, away—E. C. Fincher (capt.), N. D. Lloyd, D. J. N. Anderson, R. E. Lee, P. F. Lay, D. Hung, W. L. Rapley, and R. T. Broadbridge. Scorer, T. W. Carr; umpire, J. P. Robinson.
2nd XI, home—S. A. Gray (capt.), E. Curtis, L. R. Birch, K. M. Baxter, R. D. W. Anderson, D. Hung, E. F. Fincher, G. W. Giffen, F. Crabbe, and J. W. Bertram. 12th man, E. T. Lawrence.
Against the Army in an all-day match at the K.C.C. on Sunday, in which the Army will act as hosts, the following will represent the K.C.C.: E. C. Fincher (capt.), N. D. Lloyd, D. J. N. Anderson, D. Hung, E. F. Fincher, W. L. Rapley, S. A. Gray, and E. Curtis. 12th man, K. M. Baxter.

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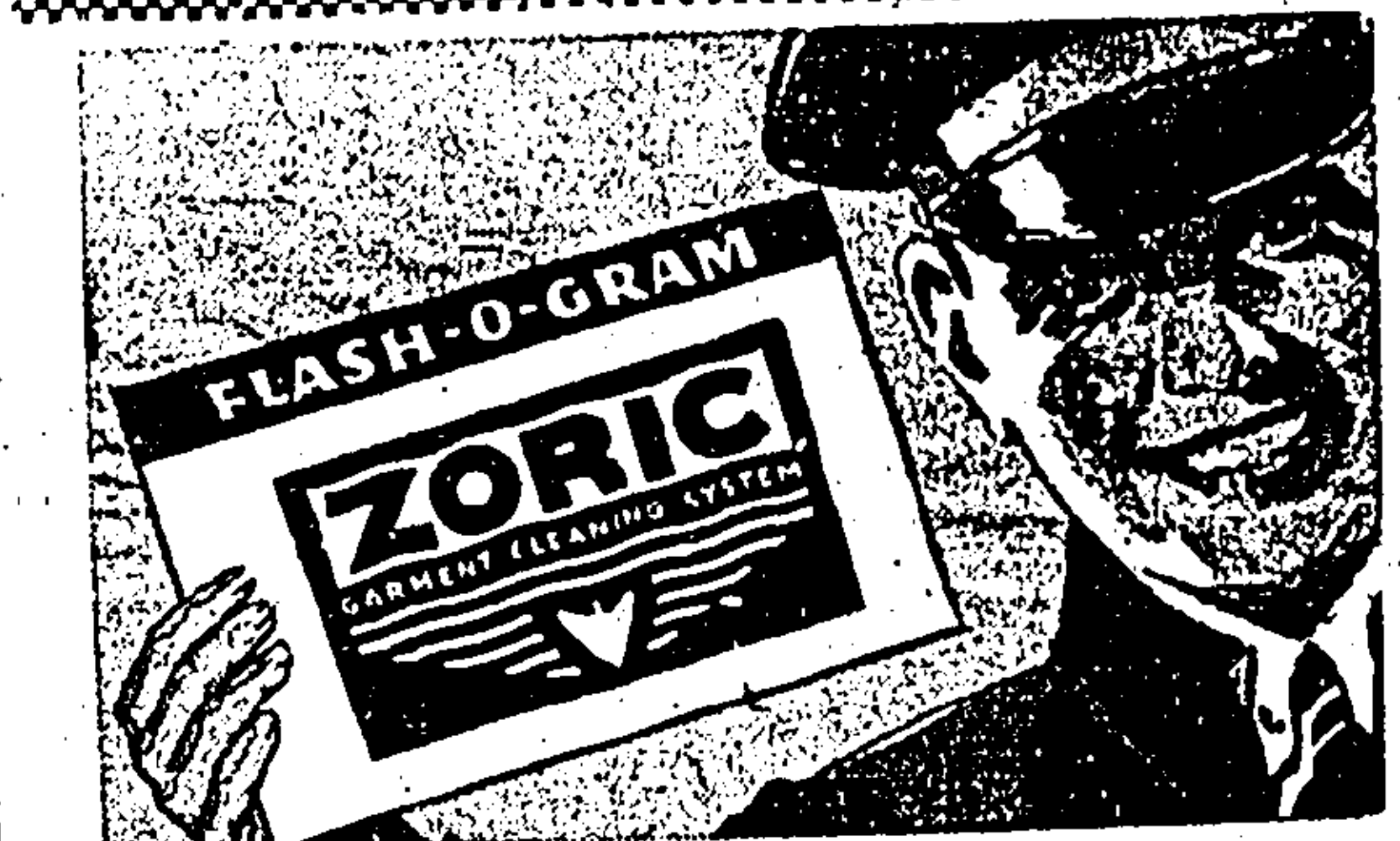
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Anglo-Turkish Commercial Treaty Wounds Nazi Prestige

LONDON, Dec. 4 (Reuter).—The British and Turkish Governments have now concluded arrangements which they hope will bring about a considerable increase of trade through commercial exchanges between Turkey and the British Empire.

Important Moves To Secure U.S. Aid

FROM PAGE ONE

of H. M. Treasury, was arriving to meet Treasury officials. Simultaneously, Mr. Cordell Hull, Secretary of State, told a press conference that government was giving consideration to all phases of the shipping question in connection with aid for Britain.

Observers had, scented something in yesterday's special conference which brought nine of the most important government officials together. Three similar extraordinary meetings have been called in recent months and it is notable that a major step to aid Britain followed each one.

The first meeting preceded the sale of destroyers, the second preceded facilities for Britain to increase her air force orders by 12,000 planes, and the third preceded the release of Flying Fortresses for sale to Britain.

The financing of Britain appeared to be the dominant subject of the latest conference and Sir Frederick's visit here is expected to help clarify the situation. There has been some demand for information on Britain's exact status.

Manufacturers for instance, want to know whether it is financially safe to accept further orders and if the millions they have spent to handle British orders will be repaid.

Another source of concern has been the future of American export trade if British resources are allowed to become exhausted. The British Empire now takes 60 per cent. of United States exports and the sudden and complete collapse of the Empire would be a heavy blow to American national economy.

Kassala Raided
CAIRO, Dec. 4 (Reuter).—Kassala was heavily raided, bombs being dropped on enemy fortified positions and the motor transport park being straddled.

British aircraft also machine-gunned the transport and personnel.

ITALIANS FIGHTING,
FROM PAGE ONE

warn against over-optimism saying that "a bigger battle lies ahead."

Italian Claims
ROME, Dec. 4 (UP).—Italian forces have carried out vigorous counter-attacks on Greek positions after repeated enemy assaults, supported by heavy artillery, while Italian planes carried out violent bombing attacks on the enemy, especially west of Ereke and the ports of Provezza and Saint Moura, to-day's official communiqué claimed.

The communiqué said that six enemy planes were brought down in flames over Tirana.

It is also reported that torpedo planes have torpedoed an enemy cruiser while on December 1 an Italian submarine torpedoed an enemy destroyer in the Atlantic.

R.A.F. Successes
CAIRO, Dec. 4 (Reuter).—Further Royal Air Force successes over Albania are announced here.

In addition to two aircraft destroyed by R.A.F. fighters and bomber formations in Albania on Monday, two other enemy aircraft have now been destroyed.

British Attitude To Far East

Nanking To Be Ignored

LONDON, Dec. 4 (Reuter).—"Mr. Morgan can rest assured that H. M. Government will maintain close contact with the United States Government in all matters of common interest," Mr. R. A. Butler, Under-Secretary of Foreign Affairs, in reply to Mr. Robert Morgan's question inviting an Anglo-American declaration of opposition to the so-called New Order which Japan is trying to introduce in China and the whole Pacific.

Replying to Sir R. Gower's question inviting a statement of British policy towards the Nanking government, Mr. Butler said that H. M. Government had repeatedly made known its attitude, which is to continue to recognize the National Government of Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek as the Government of China.

Desert Warfare
CAIRO, Dec. 4 (Reuter).—British troops were active again in the north and south of Kassala in the Sudan, inflicting casualties on the enemy without loss to themselves.

There is no change on other fronts, states a communiqué.

Ford Favours Aid
DETROIT, Dec. 4 (Reuter).—Mr. Henry Ford said in an interview to-day that if Britain needed money he was in favour of "giving them all they want."

He added, "It will end the war in a hurry. We did it before and we might as well do it again."

STOCK EXCHANGE

LONDON, Dec. 4 (Reuter).—The Stock Exchange, in the absence of an incentive to stimulate fresh buying interest, had a dull session to-day. Sift edged securities, however, continued to meet support and bids, where changed, moved in the holders' favour.

Industrials were heavy especially store shares, which were adversely influenced by rationing considerations. Wall Street was irregular.

SUNKEN GARDEN

A Heinkel, loaded, was brought down in a rectory garden in East Anglia. The explosion dug a considerable crater and damaged the rectory. The rector's elderly wife only said: "Well, I've always longed for a sunken garden, and now I've got one."

SWAM FOUR HOURS BEFORE-RESCUE

Six survivors of the salubrious Neustra Senora del Rosario, which sank off the Batangas coast in the Philippines, reported that they swam four hours and sighted four vessels before the fifth, the Aloha, rescued them.

Three members of the crew are missing.

Britain's RATIONING
FROM PAGE ONE

limit to groceries and tinned foods that are accessible to all purchases. In future, where four meals a day a week have already been legally imposed, it has now been found necessary to curtail staple foods of the country, namely macaroni and rice.

In future, Italians are restricted to two kilograms of either flour or glutted (macaroni) or rice per month.

Severe Privation
Seeing that a normal Italian would think nothing of facing a plate of half a pound of spaghetti or macaroni (a quarter of a kilo) it is obvious that this small ration will mean real privation. Even Italian papers realise the severity of the sacrifice, but find comfort in pointing out that in Germany only half a kilo of rice or gluten is allowed per head per month, and even then it is part of the general dietary rations.

Facts about Britain's food position are not to be over-looked. "Living in England, Italian propaganda of wilful misrepresentation may help Italians to bear their troubles more lightly, but it is not going to make the people any better pleased with the regime that is responsible for their privations."

Control Of Retail Rice Prices

FROM PAGE ONE

of rice from the Colony is being prohibited meanwhile.

Prices Announced
In a "Government Gazette Extraordinary" published this morning, the following fixed retail prices of rice fixed by the Food Controller, are announced:

Grade No. 1 15 cents per catty; Grade No. 2 15 cents per catty, 71 cents for 5 catties; Grade No. 3 14 cents per catty, 68 cents for 5 catties; Broken 12 cents per catty and 58 cents for 5 catties.

LATE NEWS

SUN. MON. "HIS GIRL FRIDAY" Cary Grant Rosalind Russell

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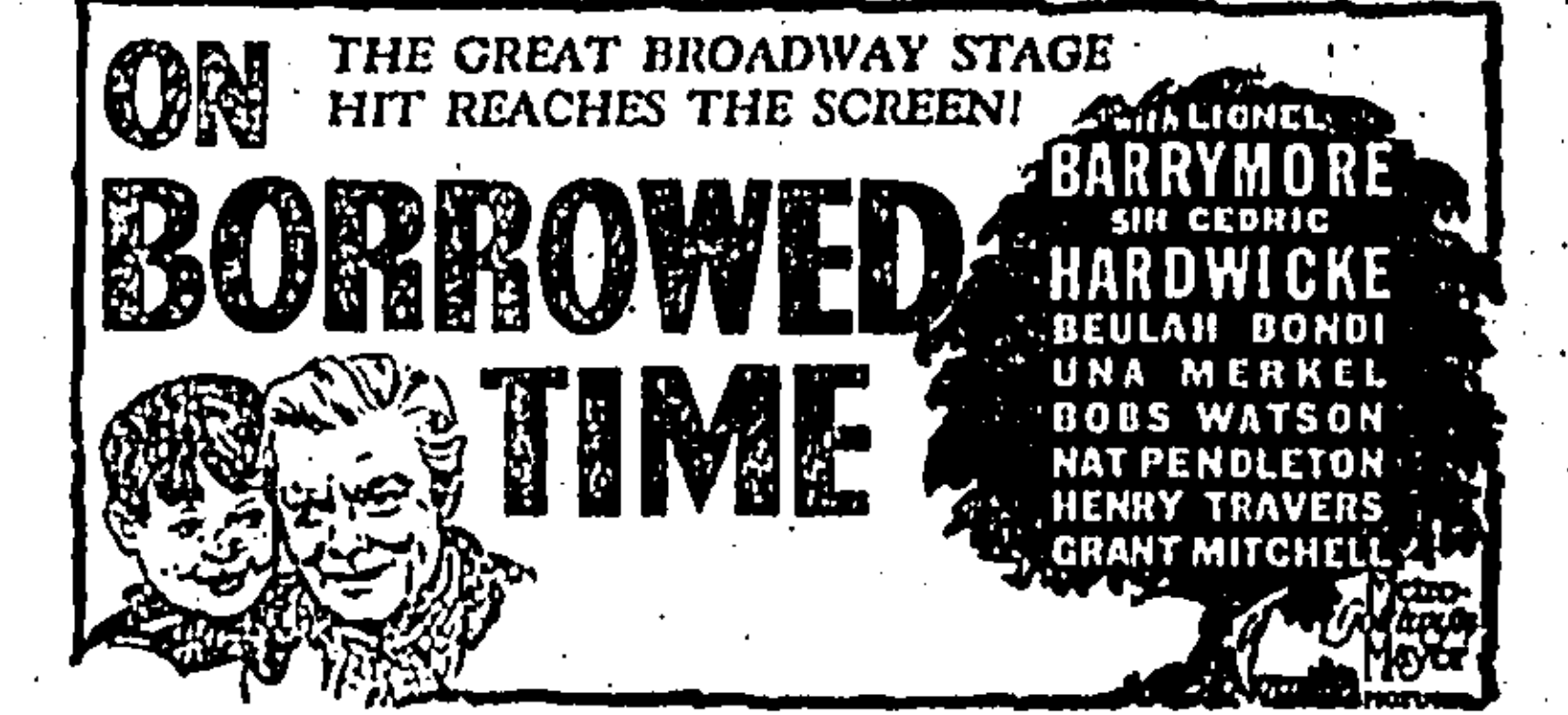
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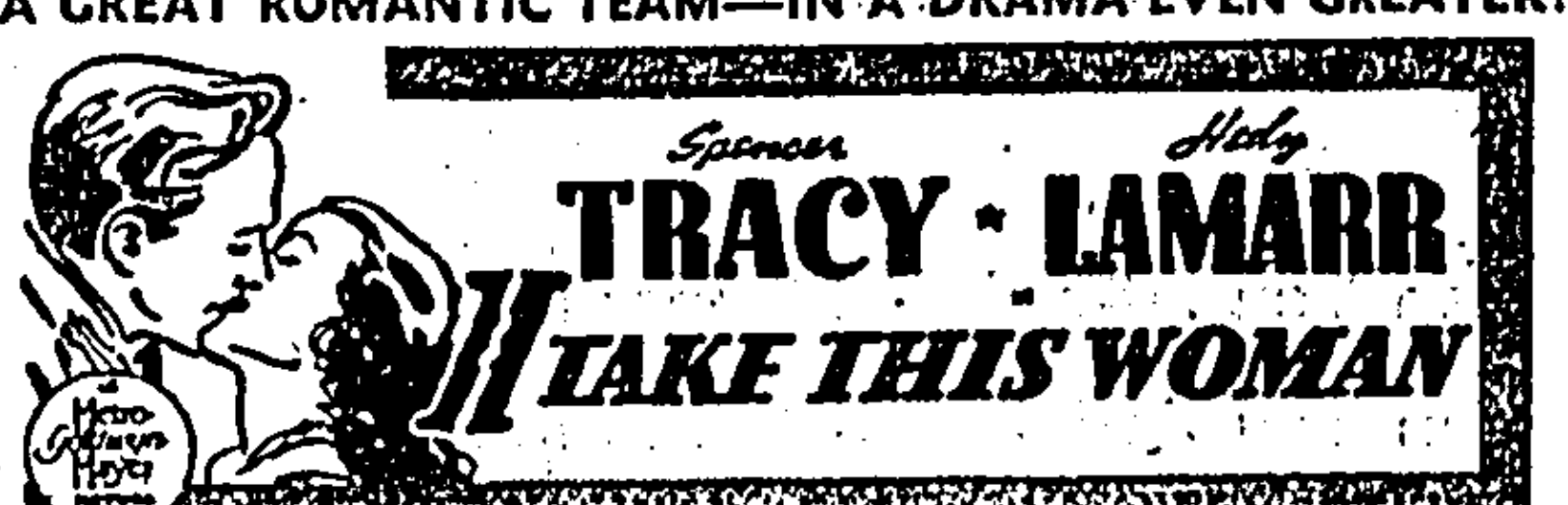
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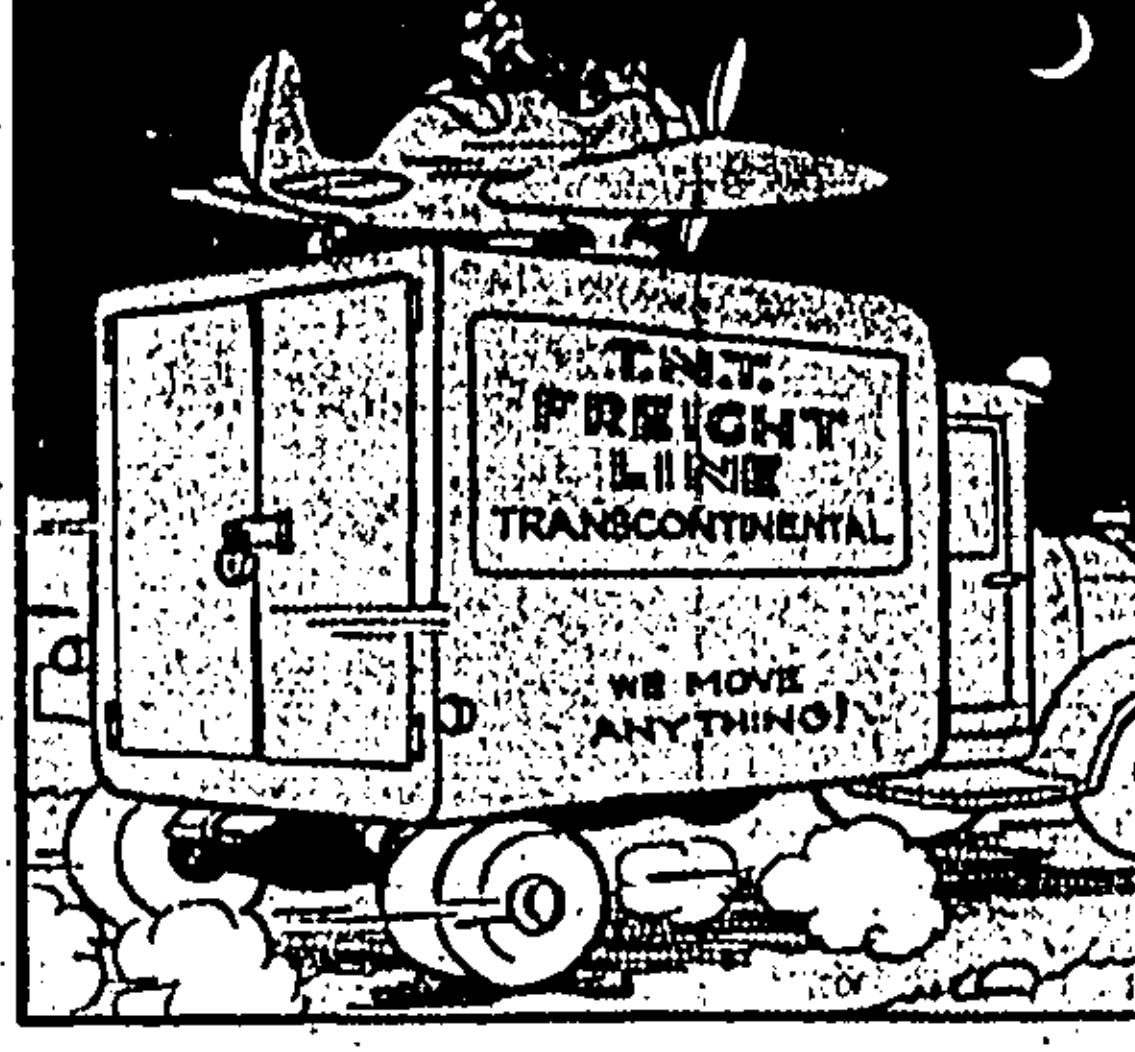
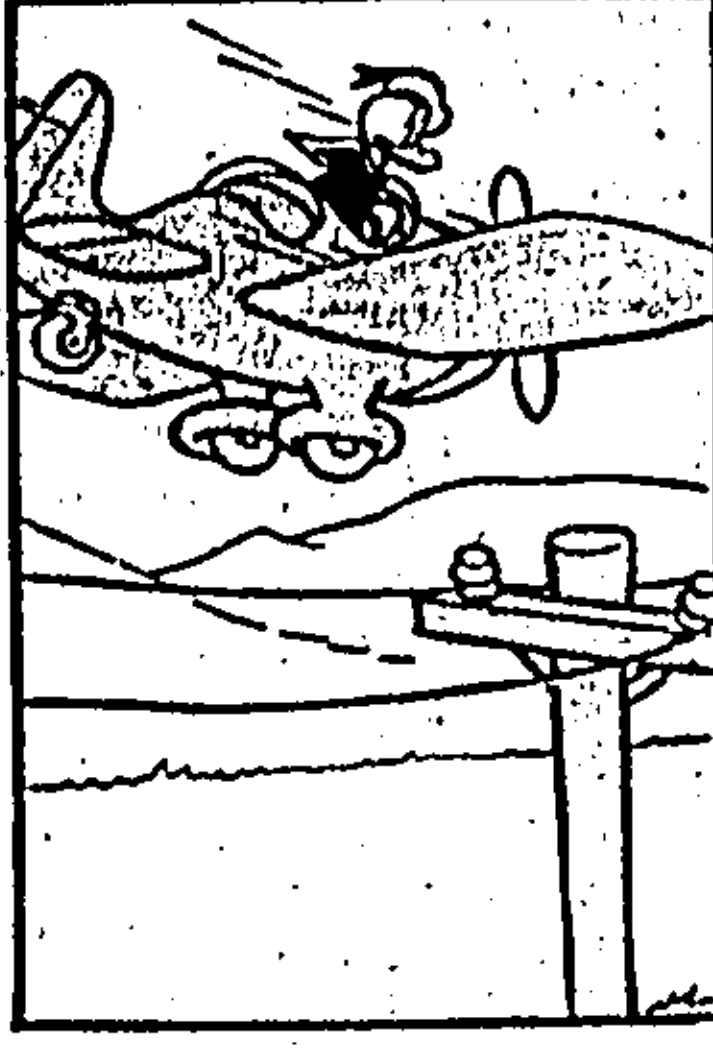
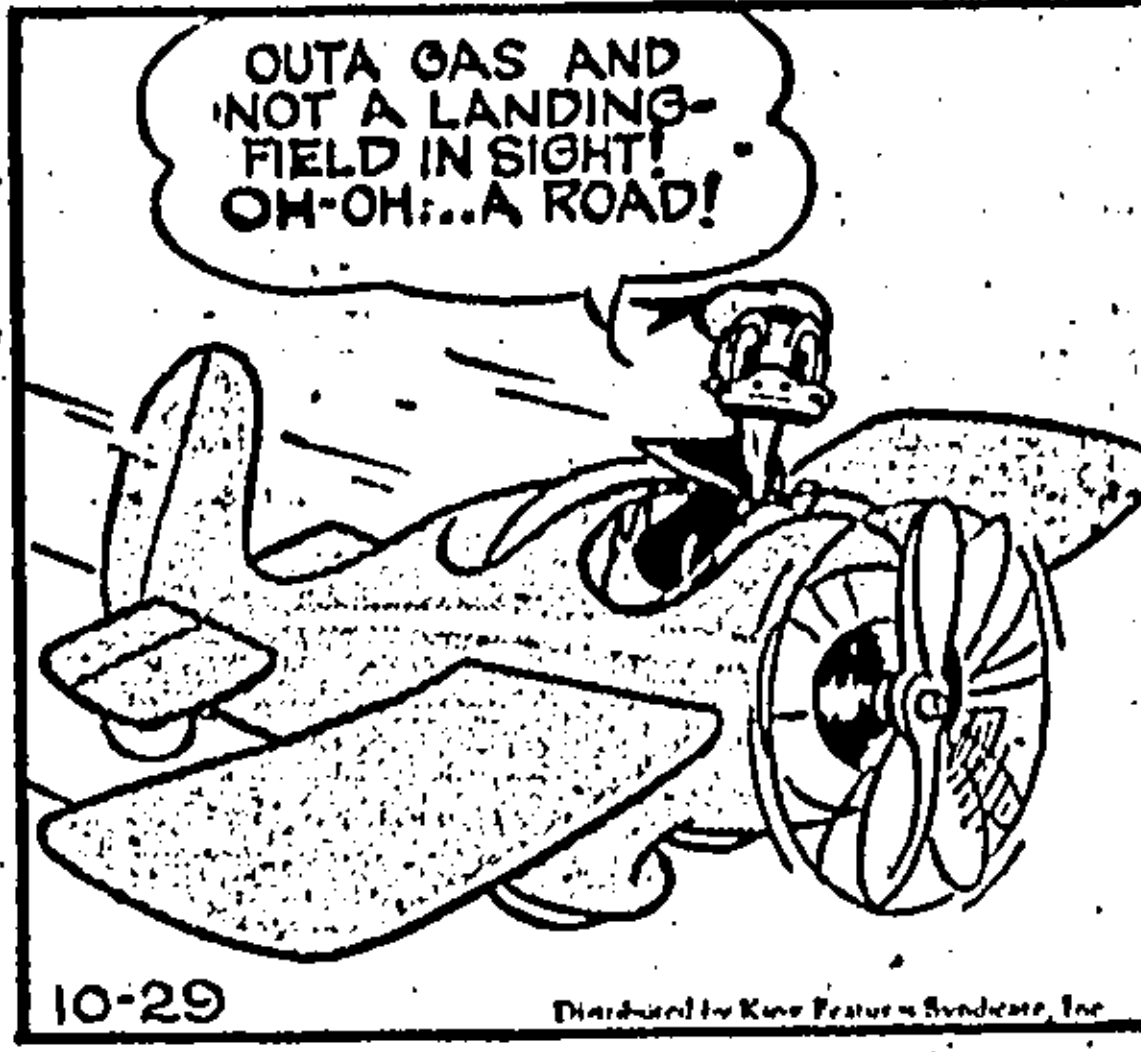
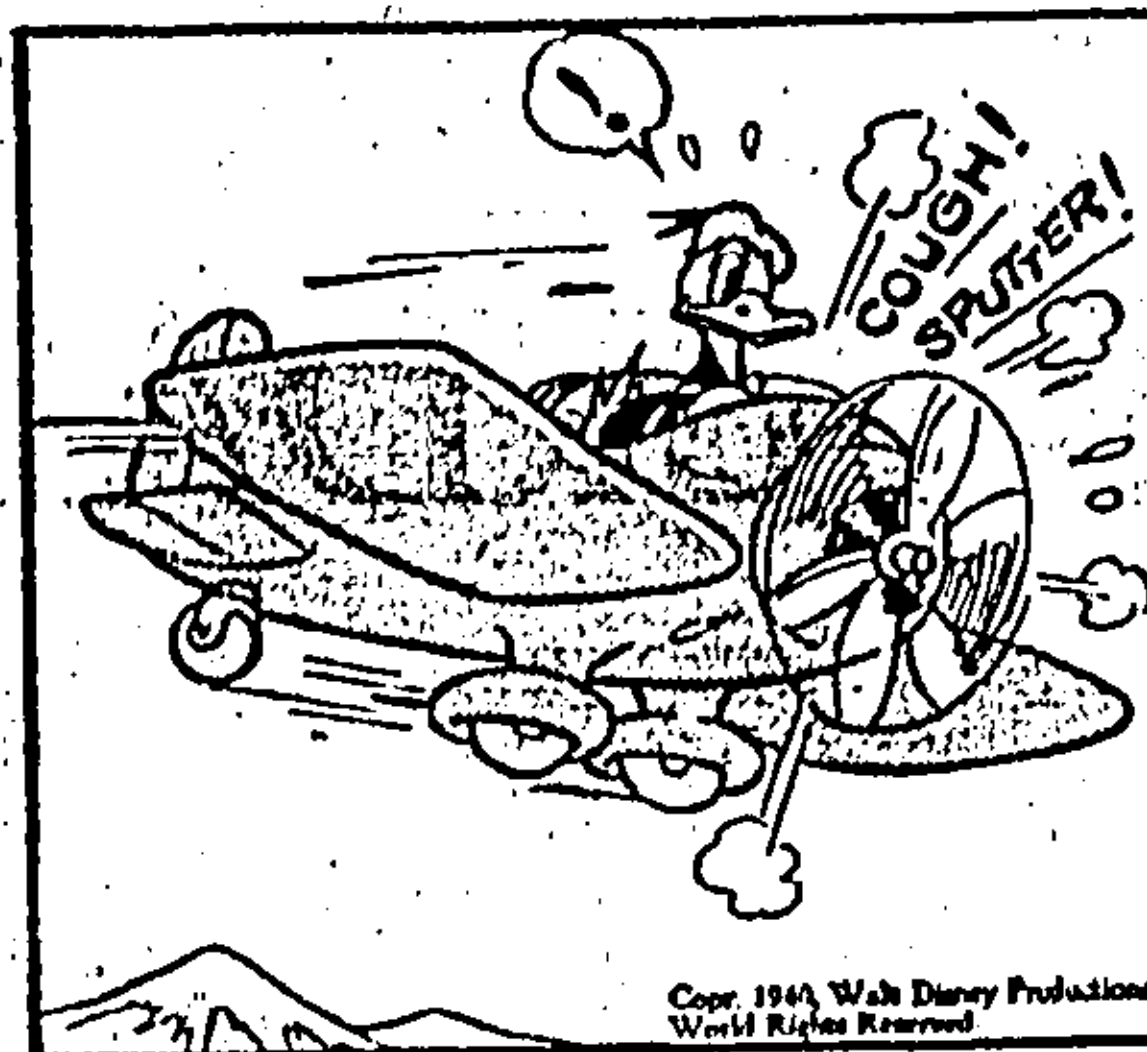
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MAGAZINE PAGE

Task of the Boy Scout Movement In the War

At the beginning of the war of 1914-18 the Boy Scout movement was hardly seven years old, a tender age at which to face up to a major crisis in its life; but scouting not only survived but firmly established itself as a vital educational force.

Britain was unprepared for that war but it possessed a stripling movement with a motto of "Be Prepared" for any emergency. Let them try their hand! Scout Guards for railways and factories, scout messengers, scout coastguards, scout bus conductors; and then when air raids came, scout first aid parties and firemen and—best remembered—the "All Clear" boys for use after air raids.

The boys were able to tackle with intelligence and enthusiasm any responsible task allotted to them. Scouting had proved its worth. It had also proved the value of its patrol system (boy leadership) in that it continued to flourish throughout the war despite the fact that the vast majority of its officers had been called to the colours.

In the story of courage and self-sacrifice it is not forgotten that 150,000 members of the movement served in the British Forces, over 10,000 gave their lives and the long list of awards and decorations made to its members was

headed by no fewer than 11 Victoria Crosses, the highest British award for gallantry.

In the years between that struggle and the present one the progress of the movement has been phenomenal. It has spread to every country in the world where democracy rules. The world total of boys and men who have benefited by its training runs into tens of millions and it is true to say that, with its sister organisation, the Girl Guide, it has approached nearer to the true ideal of world brotherhood and peace than any other organisation of its kind.

The outbreak of the present war was a blow to every member of the Scout Movement, not an international one; that is, that after God, a Scout's first duty is to his country. His country's enemies are his enemies.

In September, 1939, the scout movement in Britain was prepared, but it had to face another and even sterner test than in 1914. Most of those picturesque jobs in 1914-18 were now undertaken by the fighting Forces, the Air Raid Precautions Workers, or some other Civil Defence Unit. There was plenty of work for the Scouts to do, but it was rather humdrum stuff—messenger work, collecting waste paper, looking after evacuees—and scores of other most necessary tasks but somewhat lacking in romance and adventure.

The Scouts swallowed their disappointment and tackled all this work wholeheartedly. Those of suitable age with special qualifications have

joined the Air Raid Defence Services or Home Guard and those of military age have joined the Forces by the thousand. Already the Scout casualty list is out of all proportion to the movement's place in the population and the Scout list of awards and decorations grows day by day.

From up and down the country come reports of Commanding Officers seeking out the old Scouts in their units for responsible jobs, and tributes by the score from all the Services to the value of Scout-trained men.

Despite the value of scout training in time of war, scouting is a movement for peace; for producing men of character, capable of constructive work for the betterment of the world and the movement in Britain to-day is, in addition to its war-time activities, pursuing its normal training as far as it possibly can, certain that when victory is won it will have a major part to play in the great reconstruction.

Although to-day scouting is a world-wide movement—one must still, with the exception of the U.S.A., go to Britain and the British Empire to see it flourish in that perfect freedom and liberty of action so essential to its full success. In Great Britain it threw over the chance of any political bias when it rejected a government maintenance grant in its early days with the result that to-day it receives the blessing and support of all the major political parties.



Some Hongkong Scouts.

On the religious side its freedom is even more noticeable, and members of all churches find no difficulty in enjoying full membership of the movement while at the same time preserving their own individuality.

In Great Britain the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster, the Moderator of the Free Churches, the Moderator of the Church of Scotland and the Chief Rabbi are all members of the Council of the Boy Scouts Association, and from the very commencement of scouting these leaders have been consulted at every step in the development of the religious policy of the movement.

The result has been that each denomination has been

content for its members to work in full co-operation with the main organisation, the Boy Scouts Association, and there is complete confidence on all sides. Various churches have unofficial guilds to further the cause of scouting among their own members and these guilds act in an advisory capacity to the Boy Scouts Association.

This ability to overcome social and religious barriers is not the only reason why so many people are looking to the scout movement to help in the problems of the future.

It is, in addition, a movement which has overcome the barrier of all colour and class. It has established effective training for the whole of youth from eight to 30 years of age and it has an effective, system for training its own leaders.

ADOPTING PRISONERS OF WAR

It costs £26 to "adopt" a British prisoner of war. But, if this is too much to pay all at once, you can send a weekly or monthly subscription to the British Red Cross Society.

"Subscriptions may be as low as sixpence a week, but they must be paid regularly," Lady Winifred Gore, of the Society's prisoners of war department, told a reporter in London recently.

"On receipt of the first payment we select a suitable prisoner—in the majority of cases a man from the ranks—and send his name and address to the subscriber."

"We also let the prisoner have the name and address of his benefactor, so they can correspond whenever possible."

Food and Tobacco
This scheme has appealed particularly to lonely and elderly people, and also to the very young. Several hundreds of "adoptions" have already been arranged.

Members of the National Spinners' Pensioners Association have collected sufficient money to "adopt" more than 20 prisoners.

The £26 covers the cost of a weekly parcel of food, soap, cigarettes and tobacco.

An Answer To Brother-in-Law Who Knows Everything

One afternoon Smith heard a call for help from his neighbour Jones. Rushing over, he found Jones in the front yard, struggling with a horse. "Lend a hand," said Jones, "I want to get him up on the porch." Smith was a kindly man, and full of curiosity, so he lent a hand.

When the horse was safely on the porch, Jones said: "Hold the door for me; I want to get him into the house." When the horse was in the hall Jones ordered, "You push while I pull. I want to get him up the stairs." They heaved and hauled and the horse whinnied and stumbled, but they got him up.

"My!" panted Jones, "I didn't think we'd make it."

Then he led the horse into the bathroom, and pointed to the bathtub. "In he goes." With toil and trouble and infinite ingenuity they got the horse into the tub.

"And now," asked Smith, "will you please tell me what it's all about?"

"Well, you see," answered Jones, "I have a brother-in-law who thinks he knows everything. And it makes me tired. So when he comes here to-night he'll go to the bath-room and see the horse in the bathtub and come rushing out and yell, 'Great guns, Bill, there's a horse in the bathtub!' and I'll just say, 'Well, what of it?' and let him worry."

FUNNY SIDE UP

By Abner Dean



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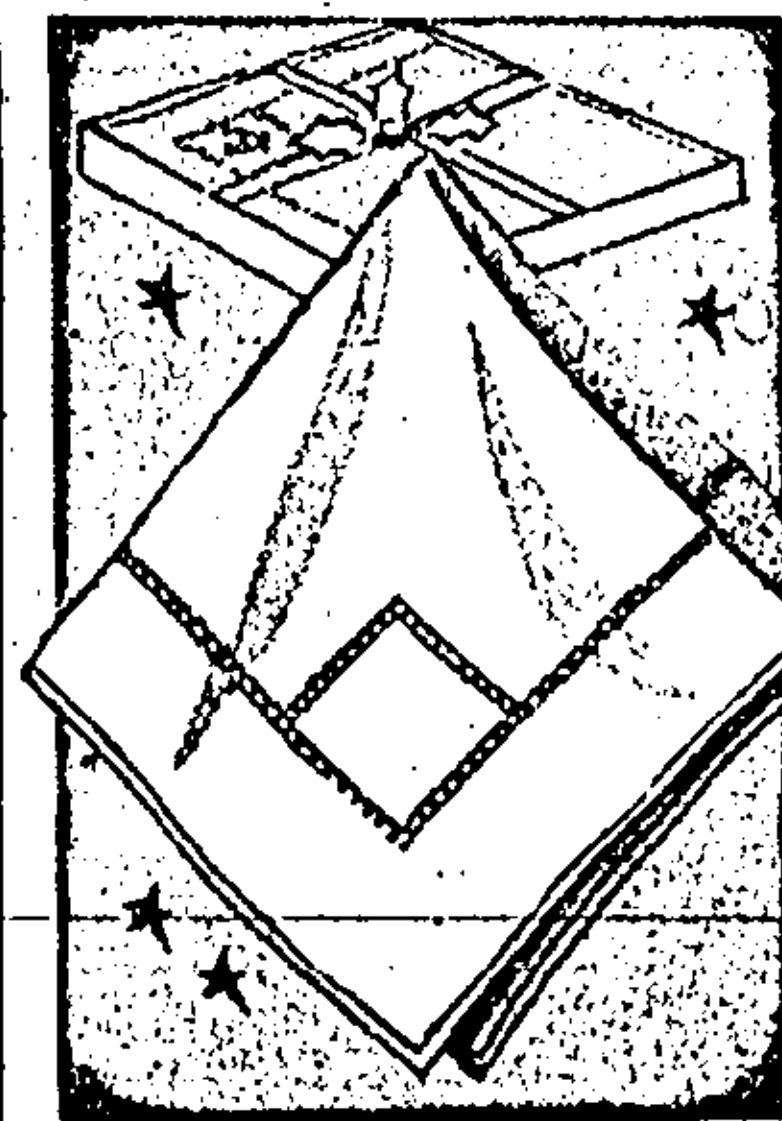


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NEW YORK via Japan & Panama.

Asaka Maru Monday, 9th Dec.

SYDNEY & MELBOURNE via Manila.

Atuta Maru Saturday, 28th Dec.

BOMBAY via Singapore & Colombo.

Okita Maru Friday, 6th Dec.

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The Hongkong Telegraph

Thursday, December 5, 1940.
Wyndham St., Hongkong
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HONGKONG'S RICE

THERE are indications that a first-class price-protefting ramp is in progress concerning the Colony's rice. On Monday the "Telegraph" revealed that the prices of Hongkong's three grades of rice had increased by three dollars in the course of a few days. Yesterday retail prices showed another substantial advance.

It appears that those in the position to control the market need only the flimsiest, and quite often unwarrantable excuse for forcing up prices. On Monday it was declared that reports of the border trouble in Indo-China had frightened them into price-raising, which merely means that they were provided with a cheap excuse for exploitation. It is true that Hongkong depends very largely on Indo-China for its supplies of rice, but as the situation concerning the importation of rice from that country has remained unchanged for some time past, the argument that Monday's reports of border strife could affect the position sufficiently to warrant such big price increases is unconvincing.

It is not suggested that Hongkong is able to import all the rice she would like for current needs, but equally true is it that no shortage exists. Rice is the Colony's most important commodity, and a daily necessity for more than nine-tenths of the population. It is, therefore, of the utmost importance that rice should be made available at prices which the poorer classes of Chinese can afford. It is consoling to know that Government is tackling the problem with vigour; it needs to be. Official price controlling is not always a satisfactory solution, but if the authorities can work out a scheme which keeps the price of rice within the pockets of those who cannot even afford anything else, and at the same time prevents vital reserve stocks from being depleted, it will have accomplished an excellent piece of work. If the Chinese population could overcome their prejudices against unpolished rice, which actually contains more nutriment than the polished commodity, and at least use it in judicious mixture with the white rice, they would make a big contribution to this end.

THE SUEZ CANAL— TO-DAY & YESTERDAY

The Suez Canal, once scorned as "a ditch in the desert," is the most strategically important waterway in the world. It links Eastern and Western civilisation socially, politically, and economically.

The project to cut a waterway linking up the Mediterranean with the Red Sea was in the mind of ancient traders long before the time of Christ, but the venture never materialised for the obvious reason that engineering skill essential for such a colossal enterprise was non-existent in the days of ancient mariners.

Nevertheless, the practical necessity of a waterway linking up the merchandise of the East with the Mediterranean countries grew with the coming of civilisation. Mechanised transport, fast replacing the sailing clipper in the Eastern trade, cutting down the voyage by many weeks, re-inspired owners of steam ships still further to economise fuel and time in the voyages out East. Interest revived for economic reasons in the ancient idea of cutting a waterway from the Mediterranean to the Red Sea, and eventually a Frenchman possessing vision sought financial influence to undertake the enterprise.

★

In 1859 the idea to cut a waterway through the Isthmus of Suez to connect the Mediterranean with the Red Sea, was conceived by the French engineer, Ferdinand de Lesseps. The majority of sailors to-day call it the "Frenchman's Ditch." It is about 101 miles long, of which 21 miles are in Lakes Bala and Timsah, and the Bitter Lakes, with the width varying from 150 ft. to 400 ft., and an approximate depth varying from 33 ft. to 40 ft. It took ten years to build and was opened for transport in 1869. The total cost of the work was £16,000,000, and so little faith was displayed in the project that de Lesseps had eventually



The western entrance of the canal starts here, at Port Said. The Mediterranean is at upper right. In the foreground is the new engineers' garden city of Port Fuad; in the background is Port Said, all built since 1859 on land reclaimed from a lake.

to raise the money through issuing lotteries.

The British Government at first refused to take the scheme seriously, many statesmen believing it impossible to excavate a channel in the sand deep enough for large ships to pass through, but the far-sighted Prime Minister Disraeli, after a great struggle in Parliament and with the Bank of England, succeeded in subscribing £4,080,000 and obtaining 44 per cent. of the Suez Canal Company's shares. When these shares were first put on the market in Great Britain there was not a single application on the Stock Exchange.

To-day it is impossible to think of trade with the East without the Suez Canal which reduces a voyage of 11,200 miles, (if taken around the Cape), to 6,300 miles with the consequent saving of time and fuel.

Towards the upkeep of the Canal, and for interest on share capital, tolls are levied on every ship passing through the Canal whether loaded or empty. In a 5,000-ton cargo carrier would have to pay about

£700 loaded for a return journey through the Canal. Liners carrying passengers pay approximately 1/9d per head. The Company considers the percentage charged in does is small when compared with the value of the cargo.

It must always be remembered that the initial building of the Suez Canal is one of the world's great romances of individual enterprise, and was fostered by two nations, France and England, with the former owning the major share and being charged with the construction of the Canal under de Lesseps.

To-day the Canal is completely under British and Egyptian military control, while the British Navy guards both ends of the waterway, in a position, in fact, to say which ship shall use the canal and which shall not.

The fact that the Canal is under French management has so far made no difference to the actual situation. The French staff had proved entirely loyal in its co-operation with the British military authorities. Even if, under German or Ita-

lian pressure, they ceased to be so, it would make no difference.

Should the Germans seize the company's funds and stocks in Paris, it would not affect the situation. The Canal continues to carry frequent British cargoes to the Near East and everything is normal save the fact that fewer vessels use the waterway and none of them German or Italian.

Greek and Yugoslav traffic, has, however, recently increased. Greek trade with Red Sea ports and Indian Ocean ports is reported booming.

Italy's position, now she has entered the war, has changed to her obvious disadvantage; she is debarred from using the Canal and is unable to reach her Abyssinian Empire. The Cape of Good Hope route is also closed to her by British command of the seas.

★

The Suez Canal enterprise has been successful from its inception, and in the last thirty years it has made amazing profits; besides increasing twenty-fold the exchange of goods and services between the East and West, it has also brought vast sums to its shareholders. The original shares normally carry 200 per cent. interest, and a more recent issue carries 20 per cent. interest. A year's working of the Canal earns profits running into millions. Already the British share of interest since its opening amounts to approximately £45,000,000.

In a year of peace 6,000 ships use the Canal. The passage takes about 18 hours at a speed of between 8 and 10 knots. Powerful electric reflectors enable ships to travel by night. Great Britain's ships make most use of the Canal, taking nearly half of the 30,000,000 tons of shipping using the Canal in an average year. In order of tonnage in normal times the other nations were Germany, Holland, France, Italy and Japan, whilst the smaller nations aggregated about a tenth of the total tonnage.

BY
**ARTHUR
LAMSELY**

Paris Is Now A City Of Empty Shops And German Refugees

From A Correspondent
Writing from Lisbon

This picture of Paris under the German heel was given me by a Frenchman recently arrived from occupied France.

French citizens seeking to pass to the unoccupied zone, he said, have to go through an almost endless series of formalities before they get a permit which takes them only to Vichy. They are allowed to take just sufficient funds to do this.

At Vichy there is a similar inquiry before they are allowed an exit permit and only enough money to take them to their destination.

The old life of Paris is ended, in spite of measures taken by the Germans to give the impression that it still goes on.

The Nazis have ordered all shops, commercial establish-

ments, hotels, cafes to remain open, although most shop-owners have tried to persuade their conquerors that since they have nothing to sell they had better remain closed.

Cabarets must also be open, although when this order was first given serious troubles arose between Frenchmen and Germans over cabaret girls. Then the Germans decided that the Frenchmen should be barred from all but three small cabarets.

Frenchwomen are allowed everywhere. The Germans are extremely polite to everybody.

A typical case of the spirit of an old Frenchwoman was shown recently when a number of shop girls were met by German officers and asked to pose for a photograph. When they were all smiles, the old woman walked up and told them they ought to be ashamed to talk in the streets with such people. The

girls walked off and left the officers flat.

German officers and soldiers may be seen in groups of eight or ten, carrying cameras and field-glasses, walking the streets. There is practically no traffic, for there is no petrol. The exception is a few official cars.

The French walk as though they were carrying a heavy burden. The boulevardiers are no more.

But the German idea is still to make Paris look as if it was the Paris of old, to give a good impression to the thousands of refugees from the Rhineland and North-West Germany who have gone to Paris to escape the British bombing.

One German to whom my informant talked said life in Germany was absolutely unbearable. The people could not get any sleep.

The refugee problem was becoming every day more serious, and to deal with it the German authorities had special offices in centres where the British bombing was considered too heavy.

WARNING TO U.S. BY ENVOY'S SON

Only a little while ago anybody in Britain who called for a larger army, navy, or air force was howled down. Pacifists denounced all such proposals, politicians asked: "What will the voters say?" and financiers said: "Where is the money coming from?"

All that is difficult to realise to-day, after a year of war, is that now a young American has come along to help us to realise

He is John F. Kennedy, 28-year-old son of the United States Ambassador. After several months at the Embassy and at London University, young Mr. Kennedy has written a book called "Why England Slept."

Throughout that period of national danger, Mr. Churchill made himself unpopular with the Government by uttering warnings. When he gave the facts about the enormous growth of the German air force, his figures were denied.

To-day, says Mr. Kennedy in a dramatic warning to his countrymen, America is three years behind Britain in the arms race.

Equally To Blame

We needed somebody to explain to America Britain's reluctance to prepare to fight, and Britain's apparent inability to meet each of the Dictator's challenges but the last.

This show of weakness did us great harm with Americans, causing them to blame Britain for letting Hitler begin his campaign of aggression.

BUT, SAYS MR. KENNEDY, THE FAULT IS AMERICA'S AS MUCH AS BRITAIN'S.

"It has been a case of a democratic form of Government, with a capitalist economy, trying to compete with the new totalitarian system, based on an economy of rigid State control."

More Laid Up Ships May Be Released

LONDON, Dec. 4 (Reuters).—An unconfirmed report says that the United States will shortly release thousands of tons of Merchant shipping to Britain and the United States Maritime Commission which yesterday authorized the Black Diamond S.S. Company to sell to Britain four cargo ships, is expected to offer 15 more laid up ships in a few days.

SUNKEN GARDEN

A Heinkel, loaded, was brought down in a rectory garden in East Anglia. The explosion dug a considerable crater and damaged the rectory. The rectory's elderly wife only said: "Well, I've always longed for a sunken garden, and now I've got one."

THAILAND LANDING ATTEMPT

Guns Hit Transport

Bangkok, Dec. 4. A French attempt to land troops in Thailand was foiled on Monday afternoon, declared a High Command communique issued to-day. The communique declared that anti-aircraft guns opened fire on an armoured French transport which was attempting to land troops in Thai territory near Nongkhai, on the Mekong river, and scored several hits. The transport attempted to retreat but stalled in midstream.

The manoeuvre was attempted again yesterday morning but the anti-aircraft guns opened fire again and badly damaged the vessel. On-lookers declared they saw the ship explode. It is understood many French soldiers aboard were killed or injured.

French long range guns fired across the Mekong River in the afternoon, adds the communique, hitting the police station and pagoda near the north frontier town of Tapanon. Thai batteries replied and a Thai plane machine-gunned the gun emplacement. No Thai casualties were sustained and the damage to the French side of the border is unknown.

Radio Saigon broadcast last night in the Thai language warning Bangkok that Indo-China was preparing to send troops to the frontier to reply to Thai's action.—United Press.

No French Reprisals

Hanoi, Dec. 4. A communique announced to-day that although it had previously been declared that strong reprisals were under way against Thailand it had been suddenly decided to withhold action, clinging to a last chance of a peaceful settlement. Official sources admit they are willing to try and localise all border incidents. The border was calm last night, it is stated.—United Press.



BRITISH PROFILES—Here's an interesting study of British faces, as war guest children visit New York Fair and watch trick bicycle rider at American Jubilee. Youngsters are among those who have found refuge in U. S. from Nazi bomb terror besetting England.

Better Billets In Winter And More Fun For Britain's Army

BETTER housing, more entertainment and opportunities for education are the main features of the War Office's extensive new plans to help Britain's vast new home army to fight the "battle of boredom" during the coming winter.

The scheme aims at putting from 1,500,000 to 2,000,000 men under cover in warm homes and huts.

So far as possible troops will not spend the winter under canvas. To do this the War Office will requisition empty houses and buildings, and accommodate large numbers of troops by a country-wide scheme of billeting.

Owners of houses and house-holders in selected areas are to be asked to co-operate in these plans by acting as hosts to hundreds of thousands of young men who have had to leave their homes for the Army.

The requisitioning and billeting areas will be in those districts where troops can be brought swiftly into action and carry out their training.

No Crowding

Large country houses and hotels are to be used extensively to house the troops, and accommodation is to be selected so as to ensure that there should be no overcrowding. The basis of housing is to be 45 square feet a man.

No schools are to be requisitioned

unless these have already been closed under evacuation schemes. Billeting arrangements are to be in the hands of local police authorities, who will draw up registers of available homes for the use of the Forces.

Boredom caused by winter weather and the black-out is to be fought by a great new plan to provide entertainment and diversion so as to keep the Army efficient, interested and happy.

To ensure the best organisation for amusement, the War Office has appointed Mr. George Black, honorary adviser on entertainment for the Army.

Under his direction the Forces will be supplied with more radio sets, and mobile cinemas are to tour the country with the latest films. Special facilities for providing films and radio are to be made to give entertainment to men in isolated posts, especially the gun stations and searchlight units of the Air Defence of Britain.

Shows For Men

Opportunity is to be given to enable every soldier to hear B.B.C. programmes.

The troops are to have regular supplies of plays and concerts, as well as elaborate schemes of sports to keep them fit as well as amused.

Education for the Army is one of the most important branches of the War Office winter welfare plans.

Mobile circulating libraries are to carry every kind of reading matter directly to the troops.

Already 3,000,000 books have been distributed to the Forces at home and overseas, but more are wanted to satisfy the Army's requirements.

An entirely new and important departure is the scheme for a regular University course for officers to equip them for return to civil life.

STOCK EXCHANGE

LONDON, Dec. 4 (Reuters).—The Stock Exchange, in the absence of an incentive to stimulate fresh buying interest, had a dull session to-day. Gilt edged securities, however, continued to meet support and bids, where changed, moved in the holders' favour.

Industrials were heavy especially store shares, which were adversely influenced by rationing considerations. Wall Street was irregular.

Communal Feeding May Become Permanent

COMMUNAL feeding as a permanent and beneficial feature of national life was visualised by Mr. Robert Boothby, Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Food.

Lord Woolton, Minister of Food, he said in an interview at Edinburgh, was very keen on the development of the system, not only as a war-time measure, but as a long-term policy.

A communal feeding campaign will be launched in the near future.

"I think people will get to like it," added Mr. Boothby. "If you have food properly prepared, you can get a much cheaper and much better meal."

It is communal life nowadays in many of the big London flats. Those who live on top floors come downstairs to the lower floors when the night sirens sound. At first they camped in the halls with cushions and rugs, but soon the residents in the bottom flats invited them in to have tea, or to listen to the radio. In many instances now the top-storeys are invited to bring their

Variety Concert For Deaf

Appeal For Assistance

An annual variety concert was given at St. Stephen's Girls' College last night in aid of the School for the Deaf.

Children of the True Light Primary School gave a costume dance, accompanied at the piano by Miss Ng Pui-kee. Those who took part were Young Suk-fong, Young Suk-fun, Kan Yee-ching, Sim Ho-kat, Chan Ching-fun, Lan Wal-chi, Tain Mel-cheung, Ng Sui-chun, Kwok Wai-hing and Mui Yee-siu. The number was capably carried out under the direction of Miss Lun Mei-siu. Miss Caroline Braga rendered a piano solo, "Elle a daignee sourire" (She Smiles), by Poldini, and was loudly applauded.

Miss Sylvia Choy, Miss B. H. Hicheno, Mr. Gaston d'Aquinio and Mr. J. R. M. Smith sang two folk songs, "In Silent Night," and "Love, Fare Thee Well," both arranged by Brahms, accompanied at the piano by Mr. Maurice Barton. As an encore, Misses Choy and Hicheno, and Messrs. d'Aquinio and Barton sang a quartet from Mozart's opera "Don Giovanni." They were accompanied by Mr. Smith. Later, Miss Choy and Mr. d'Aquinio sang a duet, "Farigi, O Caro," from "La Traviata."

Something different was given by three scouts of the Diocesan Boys' School. Troop who gave a sketch, "Tuning In." Working the dials of a "radio" was Hitler, a caricature cleverly played by Joseph Reid. The voices were those of C. Large and T. Harris, whose commentaries on recent world events evoked much laughter.

The skit of a bagpipe accompanied a foursome reel by Miss McGuffog, Miss R. Stalker, Mr. J. F. Scott and Mr. A. Farquhar. Their effort met with appreciative applause. A Chinese play, "Children of a Tealot," by the Kun Kwok Club of the Chinese Y.W.C.A. brought the programme to a close. Those who took part were Liu Kwai-kay, Lum Yuet-kwai, Fung Yung-ngan, Chuk Fook-lin, Woo Hon-sun, Cheung Wai-lan, Wong Yim and Lee Wai-ming. The play was directed by Lee Hong-wa.

A conjuring act by the Great Marvino had to be cancelled at the last minute owing to him injuring a hand.

During the interval Dean Wilson made an appeal on behalf of the School for the Deaf.

A similar appeal in Chinese was made by Mrs. S. F. Ts'o, wife of the Rev. Paul Ts'o, who also gave a brief history of the School.

OVERCOATS in Readiness

Overcoat time approaches and finds Mackintosh's in readiness with a notable display of AQUASCUTUM Coats.

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All proceeds will be given to the Lord Mayor's Fund for the relief of air raid victims.

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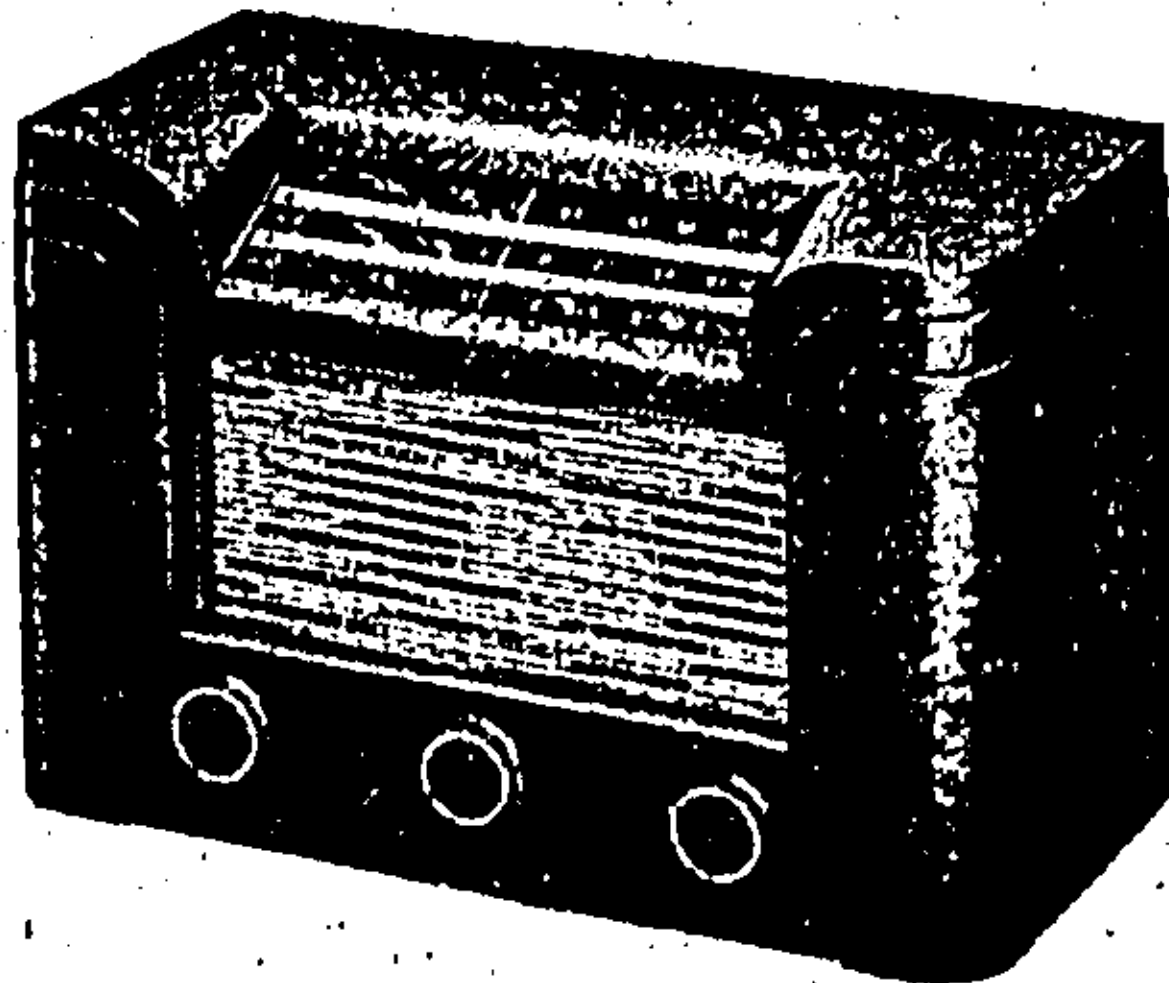
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Rice Prices Soaring

Control Plan Considered

The steadily increasing cost of rice, which is the staple food for 87 per cent. of the Colony's population, has been brought to Government's notice, and steps are now being taken towards the control of retail prices.

It was officially stated yesterday that the Food Controller is considering a scheme which will be submitted to the Government. The details are now being worked out, and an announcement will be made as soon as possible.

Further increases in the wholesale prices of rice yesterday amounted to about \$3.50 to \$4 per picul compared with prices five days ago. First grade rice is being retailed at four to five catties for a dollar; second grade at five to six catties; and third grade seven catties a dollar.

Questioned about the increase in the price, retailers reply that there is no rice coming into the Colony, and buyers are told to buy now, as further increases may be expected.

A wholesale rice hong said yesterday that information had been received from Saigon stating that the export of rice was prohibited.

According to local rice merchants, the present price of rice is still far from the peak which was reached during the Great War, 1914-18. During that period, Annam rice was sold for \$24 a picul, and Thailand (Siam) rice at \$26 a picul. No rice is coming from Annam at present owing to the banning of British and Allied ships from using Indo-China ports.

Hongkong's rice supply is now mostly from Bangkok, and the prices yesterday were \$18.20 a picul for first grade, and \$15 for the cheapest quality, of this rice. The average price a picul for first grade Bangkok rice on Tuesday was \$17.60, and only about \$15 on Monday.

Important Moves To Secure U.S. Aid

FROM PAGE ONE

of H. M. Treasury, was arriving to meet Treasury officials.

Simultaneously, Mr. Cordell Hull, Secretary of State, told a press conference that government was giving consideration to all phases of the shipping question in connection with aid for Britain.

Observers had sensed something in yesterday's special conference which brought nine of the most important government officials together. Three similar extraordinary meetings have been called of recent months and it is notable that a major step to aid Britain followed each one.

The first meeting preceded the sale of destroyers, the second preceded facilities for Britain to increase her air force orders by 12,000 planes, and the third preceded the release of Flying Fortresses for sale to Britain.

Financing of Britain
The financing of Britain appeared to be the dominant subject at the latest conference and Sir Frederick's visit here is expected to help clarify the situation. There has been some demand for information on Britain's exact status.

Manufacturers for instance, want to know whether it is financially safe to accept further orders and if the "hush" they have spent to handle British orders will be repaid.

Another source of concern has been the future of American export trade if British resources are allowed to become exhausted. The British Empire now takes 60 per cent. of United States exports and the sudden and complete collapse of the Empire would be a heavy blow to American national economy.

SUMMARY OF WAR IN AIR

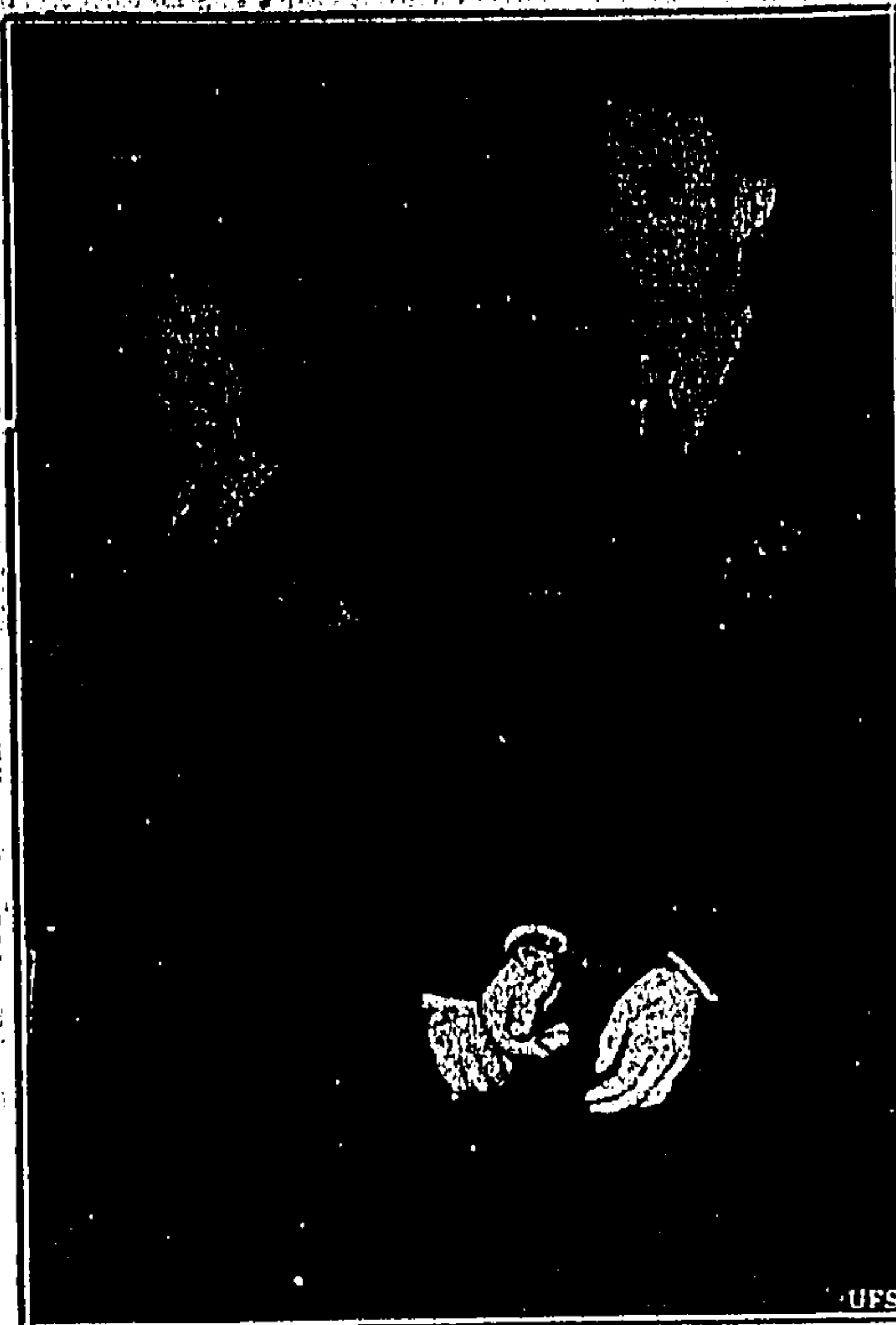
FROM PAGE ONE

Navy and the Fleet Air Arm around our coasts.

British losses over Britain total 850 planes or more than a 3-to-1 victory. Better still, 415 pilots were saved to fly again, a victory of 7½-to-1.

Hitler's worst months were August when 1,000 enemy planes were brought down, and September when 1,071 German planes were shot out of the sky.

LATE NEWS



THREATENS F.O.R.—Willard Whiting, right, 33, Crockett, Cal., sugar worker, taken into San Francisco court on charge of threatening to kill President Roosevelt, if re-elected. Federal Deputy Marshal Kennedy at left.

Owner Of Cocos Isles Disclaims "Kingship"

ARRIVING in Singapore on his way back to Cocos Island, Mr. John Sydney Clunies-Ross, owner of the Cocos-Keeling group of islands, smilingly remarked that black cats which crossed his path repeatedly preserved him from harm in wartime England, from where he is now returning after a holiday.

Mr. Clunies-Ross owns 26 little islands situated off the beaten track in the Indian ocean. He has just spent a year's holiday in Devon with his wife and four children, who have remained behind for the time being.

Speaking to a reporter, Mr. Clunies-Ross protested at the epithet "King of Cocos Island" by which he has been widely described.

"I am not king of the islands—merely the owner," he said.

The Cocos-Keeling Islands figures prominently in the last war as the watering of the German raider Emden. They were given to the Clunies-Ross family by Royal grant.

Mr. Clunies-Ross said the islands are greatly affected by the drop in the price of copra, their chief produce. Some 1,400 people live in these possessions, which cover about 6,000 acres with an annual output of 600 tons of copra.

Most of his subjects are Malays—his wife was the only white woman on the island, though there are nine white men in the employ of the cable station which was erected there in 1901.

Fourth Generation

He belongs to the fourth generation of a family that settled in the Cocos Islands in 1826.

The history of the "monarchy" of the islands, however, goes back to 1825, when Mr. Clunies-Ross's great grandfather, John Clunies-Ross, who was sailing in those latitudes, sighted the islands. Despite the lawless natives, he made a landing and liked the look of the place.

Two years later he went back with his wife and family and set up a kingdom. On arriving at Cocos, Mr. John Clunies-Ross found another adventurer in possession, John Hare, who lived with about 200 slaves. The two rivals did not agree very well and eventually John Hare departed when his slaves deserted him, thus leaving John Clunies-Ross in undisputed possession. The Clunies-Ross family has reigned there ever since.

The present owner's successor will be his 12-year-old son, John Cecil, who with his sisters and brother, is now schooling in Devon.

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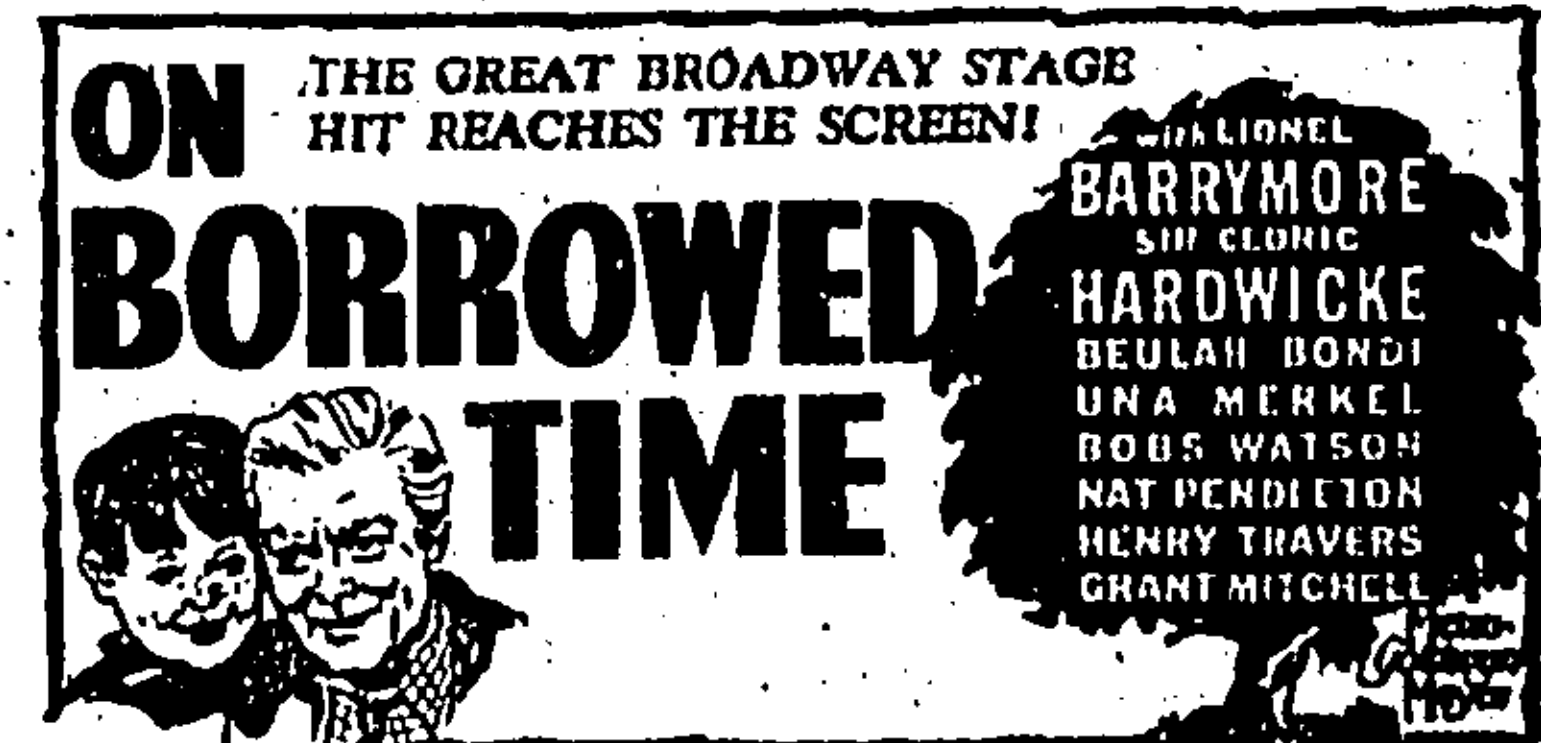
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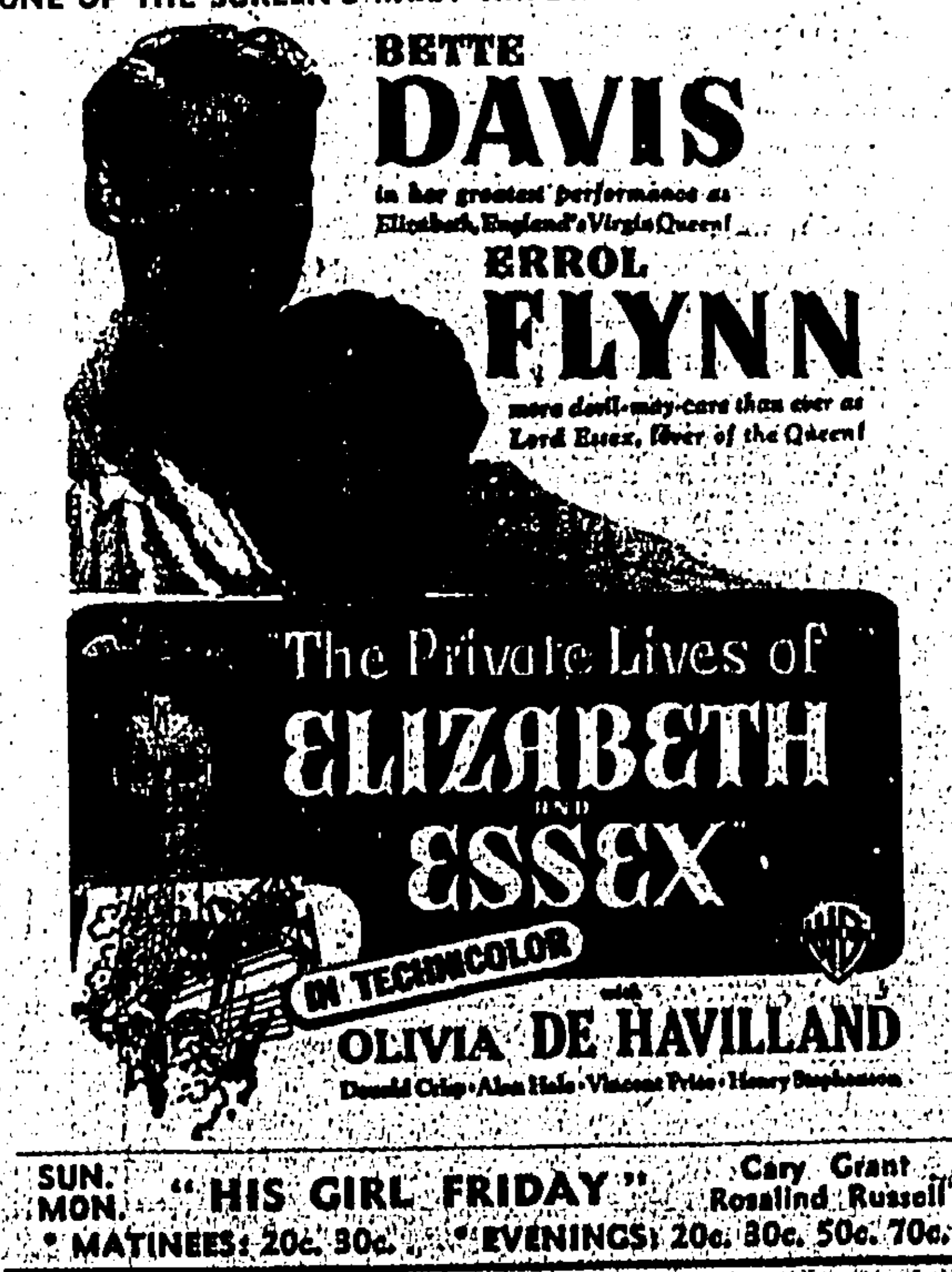
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